

Mucklow's inventive, well recorded fingerstyle guitar music. www.michaelmucklow.com

OKIEMOTION - Landlocked in Oklahoma, guitarist **Terry Ware** has recorded some great albums over the past ten years. Ware's 2007 CD, *Reverb Confidential*, puts together a dozen cuts that scour the perimeter of surf rock, '60s instrumental rock and more. Fine players—including drummer **Ray VanHooser**—back Ware up on his latest outing, which also features a tribute to Santo & Johnny entitled "Sleepwalking Talk." <http://home.flash.net/~tware/>

PACIFICA - **Byron Nemeth** simply smokes his guitars on his 2007 release with his Byron Nemeth Group. With it's ominous cover art, *The Force Within* hits the spot with a mix of instrumental prog with hard rock / shred metal overtones. Nemeth gets extremely ambitious with *The Force Within*, yet with an impressive batch of soaring spacy instrumentals and some polished, versatile guitar sounds, he hits his target more often than not. In addition to Nemeth's expertise as a composer, he also ends the CD with a fuzoid guitar cover of "I Am The Walrus." www.byronnemeth.com

SECRET RECORDS - Ska and reggae vocal great **Desmond Dekker** passed away last year and to honor his legacy over in England, Secret Records have released *In Memoriam 1941-2006*. Dekker's last ever studio album, the 20 track 2007 CD features the singer in prime form, re-cutting some of his classic '60s sides, including his top ten smash "Israelites." Recorded in 2004 in London, Dekker has a great band with him including guitarist **Steve Roberts**. Dekker was no doubt the Desmond with the barrow in the marketplace and his effect on '60s U.K. greats aside, if Dekker fails to raise your spirits and bring a smile to your face, you might be catatonic. www.secretrecordslimited.com

STRANGE ATTRACTORS - The leader of Boston's '90s avant-garde instrumental rock band, Cul de Sac, guitarist **Glenn Jones** collaborated with guitar legends John Fahey and Robbie Basho. Eschewing the electric format that permeated the Cul de Sac sound, Jones goes for a more rural, Fahey-inspired acoustic guitar sound on his 2007 solo album *Against Which The Sea Continually Beats*. Described as 'Eleven tracks that travel from Delta to Appalachia, from classical to a cinematic sort of folk sound,' the CD is capped off by truly eerie cover art. Another interesting acoustic guitar CD on the Oregon-based Strange Attractors label is *Decorated*, from Montreal based guitarist **Harris Newman**. Like his label mate Glenn Jones, Newman stakes out a stark terrain that makes for a disconcerting spin. Newman, like Jones is a rocker by nature who is currently making minimalist, 'post-rock' solo guitar music in the spirit of fretboard pioneers like Leo Kottke and John Fahey. www.strange-attractors.com

UNICORN DIGITAL - Montreal continues to serve as a Mecca for great and up and coming progressive rock bands, none more so than the power-prog band **Spaced Out**. Unicorn have released four CDs from Spaced Out including a DVD entitled *Live In 2000* and they follow up with a CD and companion DVD entitled *Live At The Crescendo Festival*. Not unlike a modern instrumental extension of prog-rock innovators ELP, Spaced Out cite influences like McLaughlin, Stravinsky and Trevor Rabin. Recorded live at the 2006 Crescendo Festival in France, Spaced Out turn in a sizzling set, spotlighting intense performances from **Antoine Fafard** (bass), **Martin Maheux** (drums) and **Mark Tremblay** (electric guitar). www.spacedoutmusic.com

VOICEPRINT / MVD - Over in the U.K., Voiceprint continues to astound with a batch of 2007 releases including the full 80 minutes director's cut DVD of *The Space Movie*, **Tony Palmer's** film classic from 1979. Made by Palmer in 1979 at the request of NASA to celebrate the 1969 lunar landing by Neil Armstrong, the film is also a tribute to the late President Kennedy, as it was his vision that was so intrinsic to man reaching the moon. Filmed with breathtaking outer space footage culled from the NASA archives, *The Space Movie* also features an excellent soundtrack by guitarist **Mike Oldfield**, who blends unreleased orchestrations from *Tubular Bells*, *Hergest Ridge* and his then, 1979 album *Incantations*. www.mvdvisual.com

WEST EATS MEAT - Instrument makers and luthiers who also make music sometimes make the most exciting and adventurous sounds. Case in point is the 2007 CD from guitar maker **Ari Lehtela**. Some of the self made instruments on Ari's CD include his Sitari, Orientari and Sadari—the latter a hybrid of sitar, sursingar and baritone guitar. The sound Lehtela gets on the 2007 CD release of *West Eats Meat* combines a skillful approach to free form fusion with a slightly twisted avant gard world beat groove. Lehtela's all instrumental formula means there's lots of experimentation and ample room for improvising. Lehtela receives top support from his band mates, **John Shaughnessy** (6 string bass, bass synth) and **John Spurrier** (drums). *West Eats Meat* is a safe bet for adventurous music lovers. www.lehtelaguitarcraft.com

Attention Artists and Record Companies: Have your CD reviewed in 20th Century Guitar. Send to P.O. Box 630249, Little Neck, N.Y. 11363-0249 e-mail: rss54@mwe3.com

