

VIRTUOSITY

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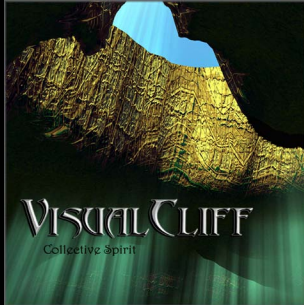
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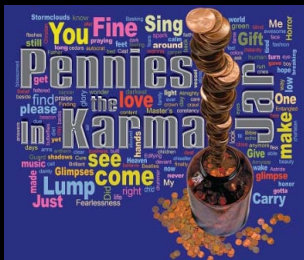
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Recent Reviews



Visual Cliff
Collective Spirit

Guitar drenched CPROG supergroup hits you with a wall of sound... [more...](#)



Salem Hill
Pennies in the Karma Jar

Salem Hill hits another progressive rock epic out of the park. They better get a bigger jar. It's 2011's finest prog record... [more...](#)



Salim Ghazi Saeedi
Iconophobic

Instrumental progressive rock from Iran? Indeed, and its quite good. [more...](#)



Amid the Crash
Self Titled EP

Truly progressive modern rock for fans of Muse or Marillion, professionally recorded and ready for consumption... [more...](#)

Mack Maloney
Sky Club

7/10

The soundtrack to dying alone on an alien planet... [more...](#)

Attention Visitors

► **Greetings O ye seekers!**

Welcome! You have found a site dedicated to searching out and reviewing progressive rock bands that have a decidedly spiritual bent to their lyrics. Progressive rock is music born in the heyday of the psychedelic 70's where virtuoso artists interlaced esoteric and searching lyrics with layers of orchestral, flamboyant, typically keyboard-driven instrumentality. Within these pages we have attempted to give some exposure to the best progressive rock bands with lyrics of a spiritual, uplifting, or Christian nature. Reviewed albums are listed A-Z by band name. There is also a "General Review" section for albums that have limited spiritual content but may none-the-less be stellar.

If you are an artist or label that would like to submit material for review, or if you are a fan that would like us to include your new or alternate review of a band or album, please see the [Contact](#) page.

To connect with Virtuosity on Myspace, go to <http://www.myspace.com/spiritualprog>

Reviews by Dave Taylor (DT) , Bart Cusveller (BC), and others.

► Check out [Thundersongs](#), your source for Cprog music downloads online. Salem Hill, Ajalon, Divine in Sight, David Wallimann, Revelation Project, Vertical Alignment, Mike Florio and *more!* available in mp3 or lossless hi fidelity FLAC format



News Headlines

Glass Hammer's new symphonic prog album *If* is out now.. [more...](#)

Transatlantic has a new live DVD out now! [more...](#)

Order **Salem Hill's** new prog album *Pennies from the Karma Jar* now.. [more...](#)

► **Jon Anderson** and **Rick Wakeman** have a new album, *The Living Tree* [more...](#)

► **Yes** is heading back into the studio after a 10 year hiatus, with some major line-up changes. [more...](#)

► **Troy Donockley** has left *Iona* [more...](#)

Fall of Echoes debut album features members of Orphan Project and Visual Cliff [more...](#)

French guitar virtuoso **David Walliman** has finally released his *Deep Inside the Mind* CD for FREE!!!!!! [more...](#)

► **Thundersongs** has the new **Salem Hill** *Catatonia Live* album exclusively available for download [more...](#)

Essays

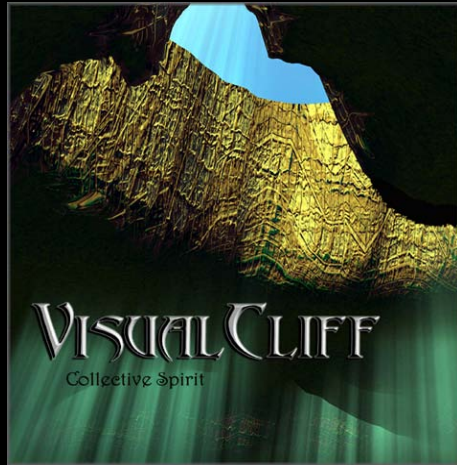
► **Art** By **Frederick Buechner**

Art teaches us to stop, look, and listen to life, to consider the lilies in the field.. [more...](#)

►

(Keyboards), and Eric Fuller (Bass guitar on "Never Look Away"). Once this band gets a real drummer and bass player, look out. The clips for their new album sound great. Check out their [website](#) for more info on this promising band. {dt}

Collective Spirit (2010)



Visual Cliff is back with a new album of heavy Christian guitar-prog called *Collective Spirit*. Featuring powerhouse vocalist Shane Lankford of [Orphan Project](#) fame along with virtuoso guitarist Rob Perez (see their more rock-oriented band [Fall of Echoes](#)), plus the new additions of keyboard whiz [Mike Florio](#) (Mike Florio Band, [Vertical Alignment](#)), David Michael on bass, and Thomas Schuffert on drums. Of the eight tracks on the record, only three contain vocals (Exposed, Perspective, and Turning of the Gears). Visual Cliff's sixth release, the maturity of musicians in their prime is evident.

Heavy guitar-laden grooves and fancy fretwork power the instrumental opener Bone from Marrow, setting the tone that this album has some serious bollocks. The next track, Exposed, hits you with a King's X style wall of guitars, and Lankford's potent voice fits like a glove stylistically. Lyrically, the song is about digging down to expose the person you were made to be by the creator. The instrumental Sweet Conviction slows things up a bit with a more melodic vibe, providing room for Mike Florio to show off some of his keyboard chops as he duels it out with Rob Perez. Perspective would play well on a Christian AOR station, with a potent chorus that sings:

Arms stretched wide enough to reach

Pierced hands strong enough to hold

Embracing all of us as one

He will never let us go

The final vocal track, Turning of the Gears, follows. For me, this is the high point of the record. It's a really great song with a powerful build up, following the theme that with God, time can be on our side. The beautiful instrumental Shema follows, smoldering with middle-eastern mysticism. Next is the introspective and orchestral instrumental ballad In My Savior's Arms, a welcome change of pace. The finale, Confessions in Time, hits like an alarm clock, allowing Perez to stretch out with an array of tasteful and articulate guitar riffs.

Collective Spirit is an enjoyable record from start to finish. The only real downside for me,

besides the short running time, is that the mix seems to feature the guitars prominently at the expense of Mr. Florio's keys, which are a bit lost in the shuffle. It's a minor quibble, since guitar rock albums probably sell better than prog albums, after all. All in all, Visual Cliff has recorded a really great album that is a worthy addition to fans of Christian progressive rock. Available online through Trinity Records, where an album purchase supports the Children's Hunger Fund: http://www.trinityrecords.net/Home_Page.html {dt}