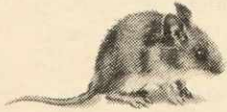


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Dead can dance

by Irfar Mian

Dead Can Dance have released their new fifth album entitled "AION". I have not a clue as to what "AION" means, but when the music is this wonderful does it really matter?

There is much more actual music and less chanting than on their previous recording, "The Serpent's Egg" and this makes it more interesting than the earlier album was. "AION" is much more medieval than their past albums and this is quite obvious from the fourteenth century Italian dance,

dance to Paula Abdul). But most of the disc leads you to just sit and listen - it will captivate you for hours. It's a perfect accompaniment to immunology study sessions.

The chanting of Lisa Gerrard and David Navarra Sust (who made his Dead Can Dance debut on "The Serpent's Egg"), is fascinating, and Brendan Perry's voice is very soothing. Just don't pay too much attention to the lyrics he sings.

"Fortune Does Not Present Gifts According To The Book" (a translation of Luis de Gongora's



"Saltarello", and the sixteenth century Catalan "Song of the Sibyl".

Let it be known that Dead Can Dance uses only orchestral instruments and on this album they even use archaic six-stringed tenor and bass viols. All of the music is most beautiful and intriguing. "Saltarello" is quite hypnotic and makes you want to get up and dance (granted, not as you would

Spanish poem from 1581 - those Middle Ages again), does not fill one with joy, but the music is so pretty it does not matter. Brendan Perry also sings on "Black Sun", one of the best songs Dead Can Dance has ever performed. Some will think it is their best. The percussion and vocals are purely magical. Dead Can Dance can only be described as absolutely amazing.

The Dalhousie Student Union

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