

God-bye Vangelis

I learned about it from Dennis, around six that afternoon, when most of the world still didn't know. It was written by Dennis Lodewijks on the website par excellence about Vangelis, elsew.com.

It came to me while working, with no possibility of assimilating the news and much less of letting me get it all out, so, for something to do, I wrote it on my website Vangelis.com.es, before the major newspapers echoed it.

Almost all of them did it with a brief headline such as "Vangelis dies, author of "Chariots Of Fire""... and thus, I guess unintentionally, they disrespect the honour of a musician who didn't even go to collect the Oscar, because he never wanted to be classified and fled from fame.

After "Chariots Of Fire", he continued with (catch your breath) "Blade Runner", "Missing", "Antarctica", "Mutiny On The Bounty"... without allowing, at the moment, to publish the soundtracks for the reasons I have just mentioned.

He's been so protective of his privacy, that we even had to find out about his death two days after it happened.

I am listening now to the first CD I bought, exactly thirty years ago, the compilation "Themes", starting with "Missing"... because it is beautiful and because it "talks" about disappearance in a way words cannot. His music, of course, didn't need words, it said much more without them.

You may find it exaggerated (or it might have happened to you with an idol of yours), but to me someone close has gone. That's how I feel it. And losing all hope of meeting him for good, and thinking that I cannot hope for new compositions of his, makes the world worse for me.

I went out in the street a while ago to look at the sky, but it was cloudy. I really don't think I would appreciate anything different in the firmament, at which I often look at night; but even if I had noticed something new, my scepticism wouldn't have let me believe that Vangelis would already be over there.

But I wanted to look, just in case, because, if there's something beyond, if one really goes to heaven, he has to be there, because that music has had to come from there.

Vangelis knew the space. How else would you bring here, to Earth, such a composition as "Mythodea"! Or Ok, alright: "Chariots Of Fire" itself. It's heavenly music.

How would he not be recruited by NASA and ESA to put music to their missions, if he seemed from outer space when composing!

Sometimes I feel I've been unworthy for publishing a book about this unique and unmatched musician, because, no doubt, I will have fallen short.

Just a few months ago, he published the album "Juno To Jupiter", one of the greatest, a demonstration that he was in top shape. We could even watch him in a live video, and there he was, with his honest smile and his noble look. I still cannot believe that he has died.

They say he had been admitted to a French hospital with coronavirus, although we do not know for sure if he died "because of" or "with", which is not the same... in any case, one can't believe how unfortunate these last two years have been.

This shit had to do even with having taken away the author of "L'Apocalypse Des Animaux", "Opera Sauvage", "Heaven And Hell", "Albedo 0.39", "Spiral", "China", "Oceanic", "El Greco", "Alexander"... oh, yes, of course, also the greatest album of all times: "1492. Conquest Of Paradise".

What an extraordinary source of music goes away with him!

It must be that Apollo has already retired, and he must have left the place to this authentic Greek god of music.

Tomás Vega Moralejo.

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With a heavy heart, in homage to Vangelis.