



Chasing the Dawn: Ultima Thule Ambient Volume 01

Various artists

Ultima Thule Ambient Media / 2MBS-FM

CD - UTAM001

File classification: ambient, electronic, new age, contemporary

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About Ultima Thule:

In ancient times *Ultima Thule* was the name given to the far northern extremities of Europe the legendary regions of the midnight sun, lying far beyond the realms of the known world. The term was adopted by George Cruickshank as the title of his new ambient music radio show when it first went to air in Sydney on 1st February, 1989.

Nearly two decades later *Ultima Thule* is still transporting listeners beyond the comfortable borders of their musical experience with each weekly 90-minute broadcast of atmospheric sounds from across the ages and around the world.

The show is now produced by a team of three presenters Cruickshank, Mike Watson (Mike G) and Nev Dorrington. It goes to air live from the Sydney studios of 2MBS-FM 102.5 and is re-broadcast by 5MBS-FM 99.9 in Adelaide every Sunday from 10.30pm - midnight. It is also available to international audiences as a podcast.

About 2MBS-FM:

Founded in December 1975, 2MBS-FM is Australia's oldest licensed stereo FM radio station. It is operated by the Music Broadcasting Society of New South Wales, and is dedicated to enriching the cultural life of the country's largest population centre via 24-hour-a-day broadcasts of classical, jazz, blues and non-mainstream contemporary music.

2MBS is a volunteer-operated community station whose operations are made possible by financial support from listeners and sponsors. It is affiliated with similar stations in other parts of Australia, including 3MBS Melbourne, 4MBS Brisbane, 5MBS Adelaide and Artsound Canberra.

About Chasing the Dawn:

Chasing the Dawn is a fund-raiser for 2MBS-FM; all profits from the sale of the recording will be used to support the ongoing operations of the station, thereby helping to ensure that *Ultima Thule* can continue to bring a diversity of quality ambient music to the attention of listeners the world over, long into the future.

The CD has been made possible thanks to the creative efforts of the thirteen contributing artists, and is comprised of original, unreleased music created especially for *Chasing the Dawn*, and which is not otherwise commercially available.

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About the contributing artists:

The music of Ohio-based **Tim Story** can best be described as elegant, introspective ambient chamber music. Tim has been evolving his unique sonic palette of Western classical instruments and subtle electronics for over two decades, and his gentle, strongly evocative, masterfully-composed creations are triumphs of harmonic tonality.

Matt Borghi is a graphic, web and sound designer based in East Lansing, Michigan. His musical works are characterized by their use of impressionistic sound-washes, and have been described by one reviewer as “hover[ing] in a surreal state of shapeless beauty against slate-coloured skies”.

Peter Ball (aka **Delicate Systems**) lives in Wollongbar, near Lismore, New South Wales. He has been creating and releasing ambient music since the 1980s, and his sparse outback-inspired work has been described as an Australian re-invention of the best of Brian Eno.

Amongst Myselfs is former Adelaide, South Australia - and more recently UK-based - composer Steve Roberts. He has been creating electronic music of one form or other since the 1970s, and has been inspired by everything from punk to world music. Steve is the composer of the theme with which each broadcast of *Ultima Thule* commences.

California-based **Robert Rich** began building his own analog synthesizers in 1976, at the age of thirteen, and later studied at Stanford University's Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics. He has released more than two dozen albums since 1982, and his unique, hard-to-categorise organic atmospheric style continues to define ambient music to the present.

After studying music at the University of Cincinnati, **Kelly David** spent seventeen years as a disc jockey on commercial FM radio stations across the United States. After leaving the industry and moving to Colorado in the mid 1990s, Kelly became inspired to revisit the world of music composition, and this resulted in his inaugural album release, *Broken Voyage*, in 2002. He has recently released a second recording, *Angkor*.

Jeff Greinke is a musician, composer, performer, sound sculptor, and visual artist who is known worldwide for his unique sound. Through a highly developed process of layering, Jeff composes and performs music rich in texture, depth, mood, and subtle detail. Using various acoustic and electronic instruments, found sounds, and extended studio techniques, he sculpts sound worlds that conjure a strong sense of place, hovering somewhere between the exotic and the familiar.

Inspired by the landscapes he grew up with along the Pacific coast of the United States, **Thom Brennan's** musical creations have come to define a unique, organic style of broad-brush sound-painting, that is simultaneously subtly-coloured, intimate and gorgeously harmonic.

Robert Scott Thompson is a musical alchemist, whose influences are as diverse as Chopin, Satie, Stockhausen, Varese, Cage, Bowie and Eno. His work deftly combines elements of electroacoustic, contemporary instrumental, pop and avant-garde styles of music into a swirling cohesive whole. With degrees in music from various US and European universities, he currently works as a lecturer in at Georgia State University, Atlanta, where holds a number of related senior academic posts.

Jim Cole began practising harmonic singing in 1991. He later founded the group *Spectral Voices*, which used as its performance space an empty Connecticut water tower. The group released its eponymous debut recording in 1996, and this has been followed by a number of follow-ups and collaborative projects. Jim's work has been described as mystical, spiritual, poignant, mysterious, contemplative, ethereal, relaxing, transcendent, powerful, primal, soothing, intense, meditative, and sublime.

Dan Barrio lives in Florida, and released his debut recording in 2003. This *Physical World* was the culmination of years of musical tinkering, and listening to the likes of Brian Eno, Nurse With Wound and Philip Glass, among others. His music can be categorized as strongly atmospheric, and embodies elements of both tragedy and transcendence.

As a pioneering cornerstone of ambient-atmospheric-electronic music, internationally-renowned artist **Steve Roach** has dedicated nearly three decades to exploring myriad soundworlds that connect with a timeless source of inspiration. From the expansive, time-suspending spaces reflecting his spiritual home in Arizona to the fire breathing, rhythmic-shamanic expressions woven from all things electric and organic, Roach has earned his position in the global pantheon of major new music artists through a long list of groundbreaking recordings fueled by his prolific nature and uncompromising approach.

Colorado-based Jesse Sola (aka **Numina**) began experimenting with electronic instruments at the age of seven. In recent years he has come to be seen as one of the most original new artists working within the ambient idiom. His music is defined by the use of minor chords, mysterious timbres and themes and enveloping chthonic surges that together define a unique inner universe of the senses.