

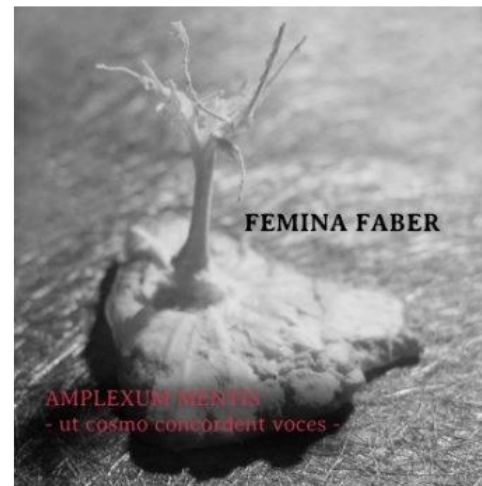


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## FEMINA FABER

Based upon an idea of Paola Bianchi (LUDMILA), the FEMINA FABER project fuses the asperity of synthetic and industrial sound together with the lyricism of Latin language using electronic sound (produced by different electronic devices and synth) as a background for Paola Bianchi's poems, translated into Old Latin. She has collaborated with several artists and musicians, released the album "Tumultuor" (Creative Fields Rec.) and the new album "Amplexum Mentis" (Calembour Records/Audioglobe) with the artistic contributions of Fausto Balbo, Matteo Zenatti (La Reverdie), Luca Valisi (Ludmila, L'Océan).

Paola Bianchi is the singer of the musical project "LUDMILA" since 1998, with which she recorded several albums featuring various artists (e.g. Alessandro Pipino of Radiodervish). She has studied singing and has attended several courses and seminars on Medieval and Renaissance music, particularly at the International School of Gregorian Chant in Cremona with prof. Nino Albarosa, Giovanni Conti, J.B. Goeschl; she is a member of the Ensembles Alia Monodia and Adiastema (Dir. Giovanni Conti - Gregorian Chant) and the vocal group Virgo Vox (with which she has recently attended the MITO Festival Fringe and a concert with the Wind Orchestra of Valtellina) and has collaborated with different ensembles for concerts and recordings: La Reverdie; Armoniosoincanto (Perugia - Dir F. Radicchia); De Labyrintho (dir. W. Testolin); Ensemble Magnificat (dir. M. Grechi).



- 1 NE ME DEMISERIS
- 2 ICTUS LIBIDINIS
- 3 PARVA GEMMA MEA
- 4 IN MARI FLAMMA
- 5 AMPLEXUM MENTIS
- 6 FORMAE OCCULTAE
- 7 EMITTE SPIRITUM TUUM (INFERUM VISIO)
- 8 NE ME DEMISERIS (EFFECTIO MYSTICA)
- 9 INTER URTICAS ROSETUM
- 10 TENEBRAE UNDIQUE

### **AMPLEXUM MENTIS - "UT COSMO CONCORDENT VOCES"**

is an exclusive Calembour Records release

All tracks created and produced by Paola Bianchi a.k.a. Femina Faber©

arranged by Fausto Balbo

recorded, post-produced and mastered by Fausto Balbo and Andrea Garavaglia

Cover picture "Isola" by courtesy of Pier Giorgio De Pinto © PRO LITTERIS / Zurich.

**AMPLEXUM MENTIS - UT COSMO CONCORDENT VOCES** - is the second album by **FEMINA FABER** a.k.a. Paola Bianchi, a member of the band **Ludmila** for many years now and with a plethora of collaborations to her credit, within both the experimental music scene and the "cultured" music milieu focused on Gregorian chant retrieval (with the ensemble Alia Monodia and AdiaSTEMA, conducted by Giovanni Conti, RSI Switzerland). **AMPLEXUM MENTIS** (which means "mental embrace" in Latin) style is more cohesive and features a sound possibly reminiscent of German cosmic music, Lassig Bendthaus-like digital nervatures, rustling drums à la Portishead and the voice as the gravitational kernel: as in the cosmos, every single particle is attracted and pushed away from a planet, so is every single instrument/sound/pulse in these tracks at times more adherent or more distant from the vocal line, immersed in (and never merely juxtaposed to) an electronic and electroacoustic pointillistic flow getting constantly thicker or thinner according to the lyrics. The essential topic of this album is Love, not really referred to any physical person but rather intended as a universal feeling held in intentions and dreams, surreally described like a perfect, hypothetical soundtrack for a film by Lynch. This imagery is conveyed by the onomatopoeic use of Latin, resulting from the research of selectively evocative sounds; thanks to this process, this language, which is normally perceived as "dead", revives to become potentially universal: it rejuvenates, frees itself from any liturgical semantic superstructure and turns into a modern idiom, a futuristic Esperanto, the quintessence of all Romance languages' musicality, meant to describe timeless, ever true events, no matter whether they happen many miles away or just before our eyes. May the voice tune up with cosmos then: expect no frivolous vocal flourish, no soprano-like permissiveness from Paola Bianchi; her voice is a thick sound flow, capable of awakening mechanical mastodons from the ancestral sea bed of a surprisingly synthetic Atlantis. **Femina Faber** is a mermaid with an electronic soul, lying in wait for us in an ocean of entropy, showing us contradictions and passions, that is to say the rocks and deep currents, marking that inconsistent navigation called real life: by singing she moves the spirit and changes it, just as the desert wind shapes sands into iridescent dunes.

