

## Alan Williamson Press Room— “Across Angry Skies” Reviews

### Strutter Online Music Magazine — February 2005

Wow, here's something really sensational, because multi-instrumentalist ALAN WILLIAMSON from the UK has delivered a very impressive 3<sup>rd</sup> CD, on which he does not only play everything himself (bass, keys, guitars, programming), but also wrote, composed, arranged and produced all 6 included tracks. What we get to hear is by the way also music of a very high level. The first track alone, "Sundance" is good enough to purchase the whole album, because this is the way instrumental melodic progressive rock should be played. It sounds sensational, with a beautiful melodic guitar and some catchy AOR like keys. This goes in the same breath as STEVE VAI or JOE SATRIANI, though Alan has an own style. I very much enjoyed this album, and it is definitely not just another typical instrumental record. No, Alan is a very talented musician, who will probably make it big someday, because if you are able to make on your own a song like "Sundance" you have more talent than any so-called-talented musician who scores hits in the top 40s. Check it out ASAP if you're a fan of instrumental music with emotion and passion. More info at: <http://www.alanwilliamson.com> and e-mail at: [jkindred@hardrockhaven.net](mailto:jkindred@hardrockhaven.net).—

**Points: 8.7/10**

Gabor Fabian

<http://www.angelfire.com/zine2/strutterzine/HOTNEWREVIEWS.htm>

### Metal Perspective Online Music Magazine — February 2005

My first contact with Alan's music was almost 7 months ago when he sent me a copy of his cd "Another Kind of World". Before spinning the cd, the first thing that attracted my attention back then was a phrase I read in Alan's biographical note, saying: "The United Kingdom's hidden gem, Alan Williamson, has devoted his life and career as a musician". Hidden gem I said? Yeah right, now let's listen it fast, write a small review and fulfill my obligation to him. But when I put the cd on my player things turned out completely different. Alan's compelling melodic lines magnetized my ears and mind from the very start. Believe it or not it was the first time I managed to reach to the end of an instrumental album by listening it once.

There's a simple explanation about it and I've written it before. Alan is not a "classical" guitar virtuoso. He doesn't like to blabber with the guitar creating boring supersonic solos. He prefers to compose with it. I'm pretty sure he has completely understood the gravity the word "compose" has in the world of music. And after listening to his new ep "Across Angry Skies" I totally understood the meaning, too. So let me give you the definition in my own words. Compose means to produce majestic tunes that will help the listener create imaginary musical landscapes and travel through them. These tunes can vary in power, heaviness, speed or rhythm but they must always have the same result. In addition, the sound must be clear enough in order to make the listener's life as easy as possible.

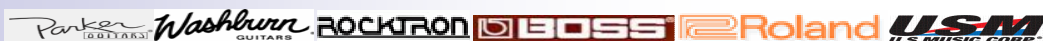
That's the conclusion I drew after almost 30 minutes of inspirational music, divided into 6 tracks. The first four will be present in Alan's upcoming full-length release and the other 2 are bonus tracks that I believe will only appear in this ep. I'll try and give you an idea about each one of them. The first one called "Sundance" is an up tempo song, mostly based on the driving guitar riffs and solos, but it's well supported by the stable rhythm section and the exceptional melodies produced by the keyboards. **Continued...**

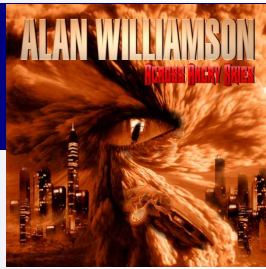
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### ...Continued— Metal Perspective Online Music Magazine

Then we pass to "Entity", which is also walking on the same path. The third in order is my favourite one. "Human Nature" is the name and its acoustic guitar, together with the background choir vocals created by the keyboards and the general melodic environment constitute a spellbinding, slow tempo, work of art. The fourth is called "Emania" and it's a mid to slow tempo song based on the rhythm guitar and the exceptional keyboards. Now that I mention it again, Alan's work on the keyboards is simply stimulating. Someone can notice it even better on the 2 bonus tracks, entitled "Gates to the Kingdom" and "Spirits". Alan also made the production and it's far beyond good, adding to the whole project.

Phew!!! Oh my God, do I love this man? Alan is surely UK's hidden gem. It took me long but I finally discovered him. Oh, what am I saying? He presented himself to me and I'm really honoured and thankful. I just can't wait for my next "full-length" guitar journey. Before closing I'd like to say something to him; Alan don't send me your next cd, I'll buy it!!!

### Rate: 8/10

Alekos Tagmatarhis

[http://www.metalperspective.com/reviews/williamson\\_across\\_angry\\_skies.php](http://www.metalperspective.com/reviews/williamson_across_angry_skies.php)

### Hardrock Haven Online Music Magazine — January 2005

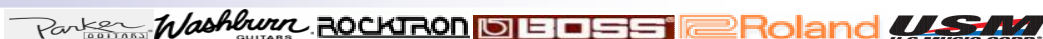
Comments: In a world where guitar players are a "dime a dozen," it is prevalent today to be bombarded with a sensory overload of wannabe guitar slingers, who chose an approach that is more technical and flaunts levels of speed playing that borders on the ridiculous. On the extreme left are the players that are not schooled are not talented and offer no new ideas to the stale main stream music scene.

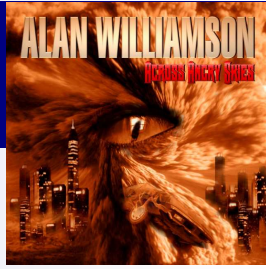
Amongst this large demographic of players are a small number of innovative musicians who continue to raise the bar for the instrument. Among those is Alan Williamson continues to write compositional material that is not exclusively dependent on the life blood of the fret board. His latest effort *Across Angry Skies EP* achieves in moving Alan forward in his quest for recording epic style tracks that deliver emotional passages and form the dramatic rendering of the music which is delivered in a very thematic and almost movie like score.

The EP features three tracks destined to be on the full length release available in early 2005 as well as two none CD tracks that are a bonus for fans of Mr. Williamson. "Sundance" is an upbeat guitar driven song that has a fiery spirit and stellar instrumentation. There are real nice melodies played over keyboard chord progressions and a rockin' rhythm guitar carries the song from beginning to end. — **Continued...**

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### ...Continued— [Hardrock Haven Online Music Magazine](#)

"Human Nature" is atmospheric piece that reaches out and grabs a hold you. Very nice acoustic lines open the song playing in harmony and acoupele as the background keyboard voicing, drums and bass guitar build the song up at a moderate pace. "Emania" the third track opens with bagpipes, keys and eventually kicks in with a moving progression that is very harmonious. The dominant lead line is very melodic and fluid. The haunting keys really build tension and lead into a great melodic solo in the middle of the song.

The bonus tracks "Gates to the Kingdom" and "Spirits" makes me wonder if Mr. Williamson should bypass the instrumental genre all together and score movies. These two songs are great additions to the EP and really demonstrate the creative wonder of Alan's compositional world. "Gates To The Kingdom," is musical journey and one can picture himself taking that journey as the acoustic guitar, keys and gong ring though the speakers. The percussion work on "Gates" is very well done. Capping the song it off with a lovely choir which builds up the end of the song to grand portions and the final gong echoes away in the distance. "Spirits" has beautiful Spanish flamenco feel featuring again an acoustic guitar as the primary instrument.

In all this is just a brief 22 minute journey into the musical world of Mr. Williamson. I can't wait for the full length release.

#### Points: 8.5/10

John Kindred

<http://www.hrhentertainment.com/hrharchives/cdreviews/2004/december2004reviews.php>

### [Classic Rock Society \(Print Magazine—issue 147 March/April 2005\)](#)

It was back at the end of 2001 that I got my first hearing of the music by North Easterner Alan Williamson. Another Kind Of World came to me on a cassette tape and impressed me immensely, so much so that I said that the music was more worthy of a proper release on CD than on a tape.

Things are moving on for Williamson, deservedly so and a record del could be in the offering at the time of his latest release. The latest album title may give the impression of a musician out of control and at odds with the world but the talented guitarist, often paralleled with Joe Satriani and Steve Vai, this time shows of his ethereal side too. He can perform all the clever electric guitar jiggery-pokery but on tracks such as Emania he shows his more classical and traditional side while not leaving his guitar on the shelf. Williamson is a talented fellow with a lot more to him than speedy fingers.

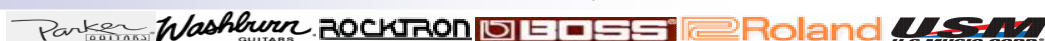
Martin Hudson

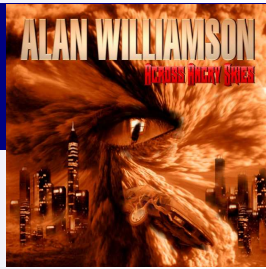
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### [Progressive Rock Online Magazine \(Brazil\)](#)

...More than a guitar player, I consider **Alan Williamson** as a guitar wizard, a young musician who naturally is developing a wide spectrum of musical styles. His guitar sound has amazing moments of a pure magic and, a strong sense of music and melody. There is something impressive on his musical style, which leads me to another imaginary astral journey, due to the riffs and multiple guitar solos, adorned with amazing keyboards, drums and bass sounds, that had been recorded in my mind for a long time, and which enabled me to dream more than I could ever imagine. Actually, his music is best described as Symphonic/ Progressive Rock Metal, but with touch of the modern rock styles, also including Progressive Rock, Melodic Metal, Progressive Metal, Classical Music and Classic Rock. If you want musical references around "**Across Angry Skies**", try think about a mix of bands and artists as: "*Porcupine Tree*", "*Blackfield*", "*Marty Friedman*" "*Steve Vai*" and "*Satriani*". "**Across Angry Skies**" was recorded between July - February at "Another Kind Of World" Studios Hartlepool 2004 - 2005. Produced, Engineered & Mixed By **Alan Williamson**. All music written, composed & arranged by **Alan Williamson**. A special and particular attention to and my favorite songs on this demo are: "**Sundance**", "**Entity**", "**Human Nature**" and "**Emania**" (one of the best songs). The main musician on this project is: **Alan Williamson** - Lead, Rhythm, Classical, Acoustic Guitars, Bass, Drums & Keyboard Programming. Brilliant and indispensable work, highly recommended to all kind of Prog listeners...

Review by [Carlos Vaz](#)

<http://www.progressiverockbr.com/previews2005.htm>

### [Rock Report Online Music Magazine \(Belgium\)](#)

Here's another one in the series of "I've-got-a-homestudio-and-I'm-gonna-use-it". Everything, and I mean absolutely everything, on this record is done by Mr. Williamson. And properly done, I might add. Normally I'm not too big on instrumental albums, as they tend to contain too many notes played by musicians with issues I don't want to be bothered with.

But this is something different: it has real songs on it instead of solos with some stuffing on the side. To be honest, the songs are more like landscapes of sounds with a lot of keys to support the excellent guitar playing. Influences vary from Eastern to Celtic soundscapes, all nicely placed in songs that actually mean something and which I can listen to from beginning to end.

The album starts with 'Sundance', an AOR song, simple as that, but just without the usual vocals. There are truckloads of keys all over the place while Mr. Williamson plays one great melody after another.

Another cut that gets 2 thumbs up from yours truly is 'Human Nature', which made me reminisce back to my "New Age" period. More specifically to Patrick O'Hearn, who was (and in fact still is) the master of instrumental tension building with magical crescendos.

The rest of the CD varies from intimate acoustic playing to hyper bombastic prog-rock. The perfect background soundtrack for my eclectic life.

Give this a chance; it might surprise many of you. ([REV KVK](#))

<http://www.rockreport.be/indiedemo.asp?id=16>

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