

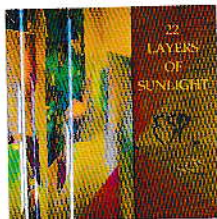


ESP 2.0

22 Layers Of Sunlight SUNN CREATIVE

The sun rises again on symphonic prog project.

ESP's debut *Invisible Din* saw producer Tony Lowe and drummer Mark Brzezicki (Big Country) team up for an acclaimed symphonic prog passion play. That project was littered with an embarrassment of guest talent, including Crimson, Hackett and Van der Graaf collaborators. In contrast, ESP 2.0 appears considerably more streamlined, settled and built to last, keeping the group's central pairing and adding a permanent addition in former Lotus Eaters vocalist Peter Coyle. The result is *22 Layers Of Sunlight*, an album that eschews the necessarily eclectic



approach of *Invisible Din* for a more mature, measured record. The calmer pace and Coyle's cycling lyrical rhythms place us nearer the Pink Floyd territory first hinted at on their debut. *Sensual Earth* is impressive in its arrangement, vaulting time changes and cascading scale, particularly as the symphonic section gives way to a wild guitar solo. There are modern mannerisms throughout. However, balance is the keyword here: between classic and contemporary, digital and analogue, musicality and 'the grid'. *22 Layers...* well constructed, then. **MP**

