

## DARKLIFE CICERONE Diaphane

Cicérone aka one of the three faces of the talents of Laine Gebel (with whom Darklife readers should be already acquainted since a while) takes definitely its own shape with this full length that is simply a must have for all fans

of down tempo dark electronics with a twist. Some of the embryonic ideas that formed the demo CD *Fragments of Humanity* (cmp. Review in Darklife n. VII) take here full body in the form of remixes or reworked versions of some of the

tracks appearing on *Fragments*. The new versions show generally that Cicérone has taken full conscience as an entity on its own and is evolving in its own direction in respect to the father project *Ex Nihilo* (cmp. Review in this issue). The basic tools are identical, that is great programming skills and a taste for dark and spooky atmospheres, but here melodies and ambience dominate generally while punchy electronic textures underline the proceedings, offering the extra twist.

The core of the disc is brand new tracks some of which are little masterpieces, such as the dreamy *La Messe Noire*, a track offering some beautiful atmospheres many a Cure fan would die for. Or the instrumental title cut *Diaphane*, which simply envelopes the listener in a soft atmosphere driving fluidly them into a quiet realm of peaceful dreams. Some tracks suffer perhaps from an excessive dose of tremolo on the pads, that, while of interesting effect, starts to sound overused after a while. The odd title on the disc, the off-beat *Les Perls De Sang*, is a schizophrenic diversion that hardly fits the rest of the tracks and is the ultimate twist featured in *Diaphane*. A remarkable production for an artist who has refused to adhere to the rules of commercialism, in favour of his own creative drive and instinct. Hopefully this choice will be rewarded soon with widespread attention