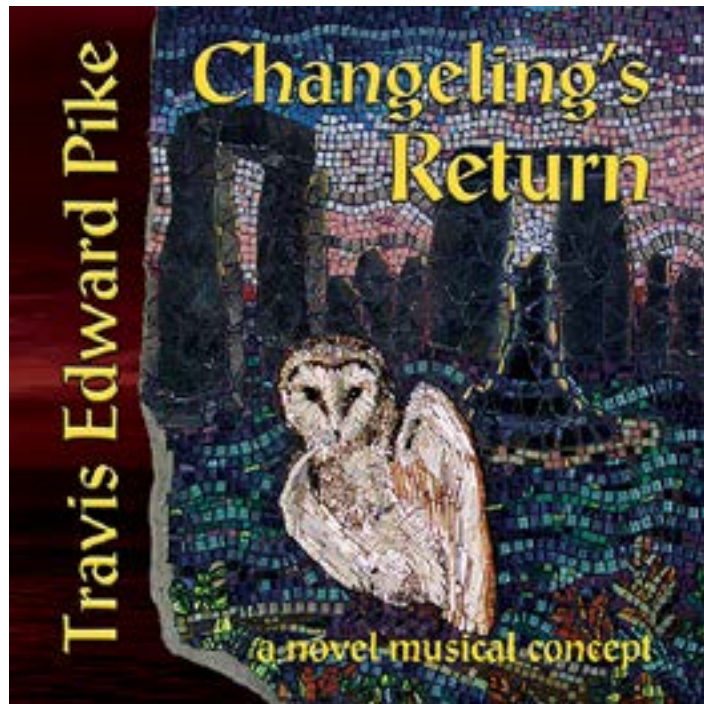


FEAR AND LOATHING FANZINE

RECORD REVIEWS, JANUARY-JUNE 2020

Travis Edward Pike,
Changeling's Return,
a novel musical concept CD
(Otherworld Cottage Industries)

“Travis Pike has recently received retrospective acclaim for the music he made in the Sixties, with great reissues appearing on both State Records and Mousetrap Music. But he continued to develop and write music for a long time after that original period (you can check details in my interview with him, elsewhere on this website.) One such project was ‘Changeling’, originally envisioned as a ‘rock opera’ but later transformed into a screenplay.



“A book of this was published in 2017, alongside a CD of songs intended for the project, but a screenplay isn’t the best way to tell a story, so Travis has now published a novel based on the story (check my book reviews for further details) and, in addition, a new album featuring updated versions of the original songs and a few brand new tracks.

“I will say that these recordings are probably more of an indication of how the soundtrack could sound, rather than a finished product, simply because these are songs that deserve a huge production, but regardless, this album has some really great music and plenty to keep you thinking. The mood and atmosphere recalls albums like Alice Cooper’s ‘Welcome to my Nightmare’, with esoteric themes and, at times, an almost baroque tone.

“The album works best in conjunction with the novel, but many of the songs stand alone in their own right. Similarly, the lyrics reveal plenty of ideas that are valid even aside from the novel / screenplay. It’s intriguing and adventurous, mixing rock, psychedelia, folk and prog at different points. It may not be immediately accessible, but give this album a chance and it will win you over. There are plenty of good songs, intriguing lyrics and an intent that can’t be faulted. It might not be the kind of thing that you’d usually listen to, but check it out because there’s a lot of it that you may well appreciate.”

Andy Pearson

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