

“Rooted in the jazz-rock fusion of the ‘70s, particularly the **Mahavishnu Orchestra, Italy’s Deus Ex Machina deliver powerhouse tunes that are heavy on rhythm and hypnotic vamps.** These serve...as launching pads for the virtuosic solos of analog synth player/organist Fabrizio Puglisi, soaring violinist Buonez Bonnetti and intense-toned guitarist Maurino Collina...as a stage from which the outstanding Alberto Piras can deliver...powerhouse vocals in... Italian and in...ancient Latin... **Piras’s charismatic performances render language barriers meaningless... Worth checking out, especially for those who miss John McLaughlin’s trippier times.**”
- Glen Hall, [Exclaim](#), 17 February 2009, [exclaim.ca](#)

“**Deus Ex Machina – quote honestly—is one of the most forceful and legitimately expressive bands on the planet. Wielding forces of nature, humanity, and electricity, this group exhibits one of the most stunning displays of musicianship that cannot be harnessed, filtered, or told what to do. Mixing early prototype jazz-rock with head banging metal and the God-like Italian vocals of Alberto Piras, they create an amalgam of sound and fury unlike any other band...**Comparisons to the Mahavishnu Orchestra...**Deus Ex Machina somehow mixes Roman or Greek renaissance with kickass bands like Queen, Kiss, or even Alice Cooper, while ever mindful of their place as an in your face, complex, brilliant, instrumental fusion band. Piras is an amazing singer, somehow able to combine the soul of a Robert Plant or a Paul Rodgers with the high pitched scream control of Slash or Geddy Lee.** The difference between him and those great rock icons is that his lyric content is based on sheer poetry, not visceral or sexual songs of love...These in-concert sessions were recorded over a three-day span in Paris, with an accompanying DVD...Those...who are already fans know the unique qualities of this powerhouse group, but those who are not would be wise to pick up on this item, made by **one of the most extraordinary bands in the entire music universe...5 stars.**”
- Michael G. Nastos. [AllMusic](#) [allmusic.com](#)

“This is a rock/jazz blend...**If you like the Mahavishnu Orchestra and...PFM then you’ll love this.** There is violin, organ and guitar and not too much singing – although Alberto Piras has an amazing voice...Good Stuff.”
- RW, *Rock Society*, February/March 2009

“**Deus Ex Machina are closer in sound to bands with a jazz fusion slant like Area and Arti E Mestieri, but they also have easily identifiable influences from Gentle Giant and also Italian prog greats like Banco and PFM.** This excellent value for money package contains not only their long awaited sixth studio album of new material, but also a comprehensive DVD, which has a full live concert, a substantial interview (with English subtitles) and a wealth of tasty extras. The studio album...contains...lengthy instrumental sections, plenty of soloing from guitar, violin and keyboards and also each containing a vocal section featuring **the remarkable pipes of Alberto Piras. Not since Demetrio Stratos has there been such a striking, powerful vocalist on the Italian progressive scene...There are no weak tracks on the CD...**The Live DVD presents a full concert also recorded live in Paris, and offers a ...portrait of the group in action, with lots of detailed close-up shots of each of the band members...**the band is incredibly powerful instrumentally as well as vocally...**the generous helping of extras...include nearly seventeen minutes of footage from a Spanish concert from 2002 (top notch stuff), ten minutes from the USA from 1996, a short clip from Italian TV...back in 1996, and a (dated but fun) promo video from 1993. All in all **this is a great package for fans of the band, and its career-encompassing nature makes it a good introduction to the band for newbies...8 out of 10 stars.**”
- Dave Sissons, [DPRP](#), 2009, [dprp.net](#)

“**Deus Ex Machina...are considered elder statesmen in the world of progressive rock. But don’t let the ‘elder’ fool you, there is a ton of fire still burning these 5 tracks...**the package also includes a second DVD disc of the band performing live in 2006 along with in-depth band interviews and all kinds of extras. This is a stellar pack for fans of **Deus Ex Machina...Deus Ex Machina** embodies the classic Italian prog style with more than a little Rock In Opposition-inspired jazz-fusion... **Each song also finds space for Alberto Piras’ expressive vocals, but this is more than anything instrumental prog. The vocals are inspiring and well placed taking centre stage while being sung, but they never dominate the composition.** The music ebbs and flows in intensity...letting the music breathe...violin work of Buonez Bonetti is quite prevalent...plays off either Maurino Collina’s guitars or Fabrizio Puglisi’s keyboards. The three...are prone to working themselves into a musical frenzy...there isn’t a bad track on *Imparis*, and with so much going on in each track there is lots of music to absorb. **As a two disc package, Imparis is first rate...extra bonus of the DVD is a winner. Deus Ex Machina’s music is very complex and so being able to watch them perform it is breathtaking. That and the 22-minute interview, video clips form 1993, other live performances from 1996 and 2002 make Imparis a must have package.**”
- Jerry Lucky, [The Progressive Rock Files](#), 2009, [jerrylucky.com](#)

“**They are pretty incredible. They combine fusion with RIO and Crimsonian progressive rock (and even some jam band and funk sounds) to create a musical tapestry that’s impressive and fairly unique. Then incredible vocals...**complete the picture...The DVD includes a full concert – and **it’s a scorching show...**either on of these products – the CD or the DVD – by itself would be a great thing to have. Combining them in one package, though, makes this an exceptional value. If you are a fan...you...will be all over this. If you, like me, had never heard them before, it makes for a great introduction.”
- Gary Hill, [Music Street Journal](#) [www.musicstreetjournal.com](#)

“**Newcomers to Deus Ex Machina will be introduced to one of the most beautiful voices in all of rock...Imparis finds Alberto Piras in fine form, his supple and pitch-perfect pipes delivering Latin and Italian lyrics. He’s the ideal**

complement to Deus Ex Machina's adventurous combination of RIO, rock and jazz music transcending language barriers. The album's finest piece... 'Cor Mio'... its delicate balance of piano, acoustic guitar and violin captures the band's essence... This two-disc set includes a CD of studio material and an intimate live DVD – both recorded in 2006 at a world-class nightclub on the outskirts of Paris... **Sound: 3.5/4, Composition: 3.5/4, Musicianship: 4/4, Performance: 4/4, Total Rating: 15/16.**"

- Michael Popke, *Progression*

"DEUS EX MACHINA...is internationally recognized as a cult band, if not a living legend...the DVD consists of three sections...The picture is excellent; the sound is crisp, allowing the listener to hear all instruments clearly. But it's the band's concert itself that, so to speak, crowns all those qualities, and is the most impressive impromptu live performance I have watched in years. The musicians stretch out from the outset...deep and turbulent musical waters... **Alberto Piras...just works wonders with his voice...appearing as a totally unique, on-of-a-kind singer, no matter that he is not the first to...impart a strong operatic sense...** The band's older creations...are noticeably heavier in sound...Prog-Metal... Only one of the two items that form the 'Interviews' segment is really an interview: the band does it in Italian, but it's accompanied with English subtitles...The 'Extras' include: Paris backstage, a set of excerpts: from Manresa (Spain, 2002), from Chapel Hill (USA, 1996) and from Italian TV (1996), and *Ad Montem*, a video clip shot in 1993...the DVD is an excellent or rather essential addition to the CD... **'Imparis' portrays its creators as one of those few genuinely inventive and inspired modern groups that revive the classic spirit of international Progressive Rock and which, instead of borrowing wholesale from their ancestors, as most neo bands do, use only some of their ideas...proving that our beloved music is still alive. Without such releases as this one (Top-20-2008), in these days of clowns, clones and wannabes we, true connoisseurs of the genre, would more and more often feel like we're fishing in a bog. 6 Stars.**" - Vitaly Menshikov, *Progressor*, 1 March 2009 progressor.net

"This band plays it's own unique style of progressive jazz rock and fusion with some avant-garde thrown into the mix...I hear some King Crimson in places, a little bit of classic rock, maybe even a hint of Steely Dan...in the way they use the electric piano...However, they do not really sound like any of those bands, and that is what makes them unique. And hey, any band that sings in Latin surely must be one of a kind...these musicians are all virtuosos on their respective instruments...Each member contributes to the band's sound... The music...is extremely intricate, whether it's the sound of an electric guitar adding punch...or the violin creating layer upon layer of instrumental bliss. ...Deus Ex Machina have released a winner here and I look forward to more of their work. If you are into jazz rock and fusion and appreciate outstanding musicianship this should be an auto-purchase."

- Jon Neudorf, *Sea of Tranquility*, 26 February 2009, seaoftranquility.org