

Bio Information: **DEUS EX MACHINA**
Title: *Cinque* (Cuneiform Rune 159)

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FILE UNDER: ROCK/PROGRESSIVE ROCK

One of the finest avant/progressive bands in the world today, **Deus Ex Machina** has carved out an enviable reputation with its amazingly high energy live shows and critically acclaimed live and studio albums. The Italian band is a sextet of top notch musicians including **Alessandro Bonetti** (violin), **Fabrizio Puglisi** (Hammond organ/Fender Rhodes piano/Arp Odyssey synth), **Maurino Collina** (guitar) **Alessandro Porreca** (bass), **Claudio Trotta** (drums), and vocalist **Alberto Piras**. The band's music is a heady, astonishing, playful fusion of classic and progressive rock and jazz, topped with the incredible vocals of Piras, one of the most extraordinary vocalists working in rock music today. Notably, the classically-trained Piras sings in both Latin (!) and Italian. The band states that "the Latin lyrics originate from their desire to reconcile the melodious nature of Italian (which is difficult to transpose into rock) with the immediacy and fluency of English. Latin presented itself as the ideal solution."

Deus Ex Machina first formed in 1985 in Bologna, Italy for the purpose of writing and performing an original rock opera. Based on the theme of the enduring struggle between Man and Nature, the opera, received acclaimed for its powerful music when performed.

During the 1990s, the band released four studio and two live albums, and appeared on four compilations with other artists. In each recording, **Deus Ex Machina** further developed its musical style; the band in its own words, is "justly proud of their trademark ethos: a permanent state of evolution".

Deus Ex Machina's first album, a rock-opera called *Gladium Caeli*, was recorded and released in 1991 by the Italian label **Kaliphonia**. Recorded in only two days in the studio, the album maintained the spontaneity and immediacy of a live recording.

Deus Ex Machina began recording its second album after drummer Claudio Trotta joined the band. Named *Deus Ex Machina*, it was written and recorded between September 1991 and July 1992. It marked a musical departure from *Gladium Caeli* and, once again, was well received by critics.

De Republica, the band's third studio album, came out at early in 1995 on Kaliphonia. Two years in the making, recorded with exacting and extensive work in the studio, *De Republica* marked a progression in the same vein as the band's previous recordings, but with even fewer compromises. In the band's next studio recording, *Equilibrismo Da Insofferenza*, released in 1998, a brass section was introduced to expand the band's sound and composing techniques.

Deus Ex Machina's music has appeared on 4 compilation CDs, including *Arezzo Wave* (1991), *Fafnir* (Kaliphonia 1993), *A Tribute To Van Der Graaf Generator* (M.M. Records, 1995), and *Progfest 95* (Musea 1996). By the mid-1990s, Deus Ex Machina's recordings and concert activities had won them an international reputation. In his book on progressive rock, *20th Century Rock & Roll*, Jerry Lucky called Deus Ex Machina "easily one of the fifty most influential progressive rock bands...spectacular." A review of a Deus Ex Machina release published in *Exposé* called the band's music "Driving, aggressive fusion mixed with wickedly complex rhythms, hints of R.I.O. and avant-garde sounds, and Alberto Piras' unbelievable vocal skills...essential."

Deus Ex Machina has played a tremendous number of live concerts, an activity the band greatly enjoys as a means of creating a strong bond within the group and gaining playing experience. It is thus not surprising that Deus Ex Machina has released a number of live recordings in addition to its studio works, including the CD *Diacronie Metronomiche* (1996) and the limited edition lp *Non Est Ars Quae Ad Effectum Casus Venit* (1997), both on Kaliphonia. The band has toured the US four times since 1994, including performing before a sold-out audience of over 1,000 at NEARfest 2001, the premiere progressive rock festival in the US.

Cinque, Deus Ex Machina 5th studio recording, is the band's first release on **Cuneiform** and their first album release in the US. A powerful work of jazz/rock fusion and progressive rock, it is the culmination of the band's search for, in their words, "an even deeper rock impact."