Sequences Special Edition
The music of Andy Pickford, also featuring his collaboration with Paul Nagle, Ian Boddy & Dave Barker
Since his very first CD release in 1993, Andy Pickford has been one of the pioneers of the British Electronic Music scene. He has developed a distinct style that is instantly recognisable from the quality and power of his numerous albums and concert appearances, all of which have led to his international acclaim in the field of Electronic Music.

His earliest recordings date from the late 1970’s when he used a Korg MS20 and a Yamaha organ together with an Akai GX4000D reel-to-reel recorder to compose and record music that would be distributed around a few friends and form the foundation for what would be his ultimate passion for composing Electronic Music.

The 1980’s saw Andy develop his technique and style as well as improve his equipment so that he was more able to record the music he loved. This eventually led to his first cassette-based and limited stock album “Linear Functions” as well as many recordings which still only reside on reel-to-reel tape spools in Andy’s archives.

Everything changed in the 1990’s with the release of his first 3 CD’s on the Centaur label, the third “Maelstrom” being the most successful. This was followed by more album releases on other labels including Something Else Records and GPR but by the end of the 1990’s he had become very disillusioned with the music scene and went into semi-retirement.

It wasn’t long, however, before Andy was back and released a new album “Lughnasad”, once again on the Centaur label. This was followed by his three “Vanguard” CD’s, which were released through the AD Music label who would go on to release several more albums and EP’s by Andy.

Andy also has a long-running musical collaboration with Paul Nagle in a duo they call Binar. With Andy’s skill in producing structured music and Paul’s experience and skill in creating improvised music, it was an unlikely pairing, but in effect turned out to be a great, synergistic combination with several album releases and live concert appearances.

This all leads to the present day where Andy is writing and recording his own style of Electronic Music and self releasing albums on the Internet platform via Bandcamp. His latest release “Psymanteum” demonstrates the high quality of his music as well as the different styles he can adopt and with this album being darker and more foreboding than most it is certainly boding well for the future.

(Michael Shipway)
“Terraformer” is often regarded as the rival of Pickford’s “Maelstrom” as being a favorite among his works, though the albums are stylistically dissimilar in many ways. “Maelstrom” is more ambient and epic in thematic scope, while “Terraformer” picks up where his earlier “Replicant” left off in tones reminiscent of the Blade Runner setting.

Two of the top British musicians in the 90’s teaming up for their one & only album release, but did performed together live, in Holland & the UK.

The debut album released in 1993, originally on the Centaur Discs label. The music was inspired by the movie Blade Runner and became known to the composer of that movie’s soundtrack, Vangelis, whilst getting quotes from the movie copyright cleared through Warner Bros. Vangelis had still not released his original music from the movie at the time.

Riding on the back of Maelstrom was never going to be easy in terms of allowing me a lot of leeway for further variation. But being the chameleon I am, I had to keep changing. The result here was Xenomorph. The album was received really well and hasn’t aged that badly either.

This is the (mostly) live album recorded at the EMMA 1 Festival, Derby Assembly Rooms, March 12th 1994. The album Terraformer was launched on this day too.

“Maelstrom” became one of his best loved LP releases, and is even more relevant and striking today than it was twenty years ago. It contains over an hour’s worth of remarkable and evocative electronica music listening.

Works 2 (tracks 1-8) was performed live at The Derby Guildhall at gigs during 1995-1997. In spite of my internal habit of playing bloopers on simple phrases, my playing on this album was well on form.

Original DAT master of the live concert by Andy & Dave Barker, Guildhall, June 15th, 1996 Derby, UK, at that time an exclusive for Sequences Magazine.
All tracks composed, performed and produced by Andy Pickford. Live section performed as part of the Electric Cafe series of concerts in Derby UK, late 1997

Produced during the end of 1997 and into 1998, you can hear a definite transition taking place. More longer tracks on this album than on any of the others, and they sound more intense. Certainly no shortage of passion on this album.

The second in the 'Vanguard' trilogy, 'Vanguard 2' continues Andy Pickford’s vision of pulsating and melodic electronica. The music effortlessly crosses the boundaries between traditional electronic music and contemporary electronica and downtempo chill out music.

Harmonics in The Silence is the product of one of those "legendary" sessions. You know what I mean, those rare times when you have an inkling to do something a little differently.

The original "Lughnasad" was the final Pickford album to be released before his eight-year hiatus from solo work, during which he collaborated with a bevy of other respected artists.

On August 20th 2016 Binar got together in a hut, sorry pavilion, to see if the farce was still with them. Fortunately someone had brought an inflatable stormtrooper and an inflatable R2D2, settling the matter once and for all.
This is a companion suite to Harmonics in The Silence. One of many to follow I suspect. I greatly enjoy this approach to production and haven’t had this much fun with music in years.

Third 15 part instalment of my ongoing venture into vast sprawling soundscapes territory! Following “Harmonics in The Silence” and “Shadow at The Gate”, Orgonon carried the series into new terrain.

Well, it’s time to have me bit of say about the new work. 4th in this ongoing series after Harmonics in The Silence, Shadow at The Gate and Orgonon, comes Pareidolia. Again you’re looking at another 15 long electronica-centred pieces.

This is the first part of three part series, Andy Pickford - played every sound on just about any old knob-box, virtual or otherwise which he could lay his hands on at the time.

This album was composed and produced sequentially i.e. from start to finish in that order, with everything in mind as a complete work...sort of thing. Rather like my album Lughnasad is in approach, although not in overall sound.

It was always going to be a tough call to follow the staggering success of Biosphere. Intended as a sort of blend of Biosphere and the styles of the Harmonics -> Pareidolia series, Panopticon comes out as a kind of hybrid cross between the two.
Track List

'No-one Can Hear You'
'Get Dyson'
'Ian Boddy & Andy Pickford “Enigmagic”
'Voyager’
'Night Of The Long Knives’
'Summer Past’
Andy Pickford & Dave Barker ‘UFO Part 1’
'Cathedral’
'Incarnate’
'Angelfire Pt 1 & 2’
'Drifting’
'Ambient Space Monkeys“In the Regions of Taxreturns”
'Break’
'Pieces 7’
'Binar ‘Reflected Glory’
'Orgonon pt 11’
'Pieces 1’

(album Replicant 1993)
(album Terraforma 1994)
(album Symbiont 1995)
(album Maelstrom 1995)
(album Xenomorph 1996)
(album Works Vol 1 Live At Emma 1996)
(Live Derby Guildhall 1996)
(album Works Vol 2 Live Derby Guildhall 1997)
(album Vahalla 1997)
(album Nemesis 1998)
(album Lughnasad 2002)
(album S.T.D.M. 2003)
(album Vanguard 2 2016)
(album Harmonics In The Silence 2017)
(album Tales Of The Uninformed Part 1 2016)
(album Orgonon 2017)
(album Pareidolia 2017)

Okay already, so the word is "Psychomanteum" and I shortened it to Psymanteum because... reasons! This project began on August 31st 2019 and was finished by September 18th. So quite a compact but intensive session. These are very often the best ones!

'Pieces 1'
'Mirage 1’
'Biosphere Pt 5’
'Panopticon Pt 6’
'Psymanteum 9’

Edit***

(album Shadow At The Gate 2017)***
(album Objects Expressions 1 2018)
(album Biosphere 2019)
(album Panopticon 2019)
(album Psymanteum 2019)