

I don't know why bands often start their albums with atonal noises. When I was a child and I bought '1984' by Van Halen, I saw that the opening track was one minute, seven seconds long. 'Great!', I thought. 'This is going to be a short guitar wigout in the style of 'Eruption'!' Turns out it was an instrumental keyboard piece. Damn. Imagine my annoyance if it sounded the same as a cat jumping on a piano. (Let's face it, experimental music fans, that's EXACTLY what atonality sounds like). Some intellectuals will argue atonality is a deeper subject than your pet's seemingly joyful improvisations, but most people won't. 'Abundavida' by Otis similarly starts with a 'random' track, disappointingly called 'Intro'. I wasn't thinking 'how daring', and my mind certainly wasn't blown. But on the plus side, the instrumental didn't sound like COMPLETE ass. Want to know some atonal music that does? You won't be looking for long, just go to Youtube. It will be quite a journey though. Like going on a crusade - Only a nutter would enjoy it. (I would describe myself as a bit of a nutter, but even so crusades aren't for me. I felt it important to say that. Phew!, right?)

Moving on, 'Abundavida' is Spanish for 'Abundant Life'. How interesting, but personally I think the album name should just be in English. At first I thought 'Abundavida' was gibberish. Imagine getting a nonsense album that starts with atonal, unplanned-sounding noises. It's not good. Luckily however, things quickly improve. Well they improve in terms of quality, not so much logic. What's abundant life-like about a lonely day, for one thing? Sure track 'Lonely Day' is almost impossible to take out of context making it an improvement over the LP title, but obviously most will be expecting a happy track. Don't get me wrong though, Abundavida is actually a very good album. Why have you almost certainly not heard of it? Possibly because the group's label (Gizmo Records) is, let's say 'ultra underground'. The label's Facebook page has... get ready for it... One like! I don't know who the like is from, but it's quite possible it's not even from the band. Even if it IS from a single band member, why didn't the other musicians like it?? Something very strange is going on there. I'm assuming the label has liked themselves.

After doing a spot of research, Gizmo Records has only ever released one album. (The album in question). Really they should call themselves 'Gizmo Record'. If they were going for 100% honesty, 'Record' alone could work. I'm not sure what gadgets have to do with the company. Unless you call CDs gadgets. Tbh, I'm not sure about that. Here are some sad statistics: According to discogs.com, just one person has the album, and one person wants it. Well that's a disaster, isn't it? Perhaps the most damning statistic is 'Last sold: Never', but I'm assuming it's just the site that has never sold an album. (As there are a couple on Amazon you can get second hand). It's certainly a far distance away from a platinum album. Let's call it an 'oxygen' album, in that the element is cheap and everywhere. (The opposite of precious metals, I mean). But hang on... Oxygen is essential for abundant, or indeed any life. Maybe that's what the band want. It seems I've retreated into fantasy a bit there, so I'll move on again.

'But Simon... if the album is so rare, how did you hear of it?' Well, I heard one of its tracks from the computer motocross game 'MX Unleashed'. I'm sure millions of copies of the game were sold, and many people will consequently know at least (and at most) one track of the band, so why else didn't it sell? Well, you can easily find the whole album on Youtube, and remember what it starts with? Atonal goofing around! (Yes I'm going on about it again, but the issue needs to be properly addressed). Ok,

it's not a piano piece, meaning your pet Pickles couldn't have composed it, but that's not point. The random sounds are never going to help things, are they? They're far from hip and trendy. If someone said they wanted to put Arnold Schoenberg's work in a highly anticipated skateboarding game, people would look at the guy like he was mad! I mean how many people who like 20th century avant-garde classical music own a skateboard? When you put it like that, the style of the opening track is not only weird, but pretty dumb quite frankly.

In conclusion, starting the album with one of the least popular genres known to man, and signing with a record label that had no prior releases and has had none since kind of doomed the thing in my opinion. The title that could only easily be remembered by Spaniards was the final nail in the coffin. As in 'do you have that album... err... what's it called? Something about buns??? A bun on Venus??' 'Let me just Google that for you... Nope, you've made that up...' Having said all that, the album IS pretty good, that's the tragedy. Luckily you can easily hear it with the help of the internet, but for the love of God, have patience. The album isn't perfect, the acoustic and piano stuff is a bit annoying at times, but to the person on discogs.com who wants the release: I have it and it feels awesome! Powned. Let's give it 8.5/10. Bye!