



Ben Powell (aka Mank) as far as I'm concerned, he's one of the best makers of electronic mood music

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- [Awen](#) Review - 2010



- **A&B** -

Hi Ben and welcome on Artists and Bands. Let's kick off with the usual question, would you like

- **Mank** –

Hello, my name is Ben Powell, I live in North Wales and I've been making electronic music since 1998.

- **A&B** -

When did you first start making music?

- **Mank** –

I was given an acoustic guitar when I was 11 and started learning how to play it, by the age of 15 I was

- **A&B** -

During your career you've published a lot of albums, but two of them have been published with

- **Mank** –

I can not take full credit for Micrographia, it was a "post rock" band with two other members, Dave McC
Llyn Y Cwn is the name I use for the more "dark ambient" oriented releases, there has always been the

- **A&B** -

You sell your albums exclusively through the internet; actually, you ask for a voluntary donation

- **Mank** –

It has not been my choice to avoid record companies, they have chosen to avoid me. I find that releasing

Mank [Eng]

Scritto da Martina "Sunrise" Zanzi
Domenica 28 Marzo 2010 18:46

- A&B -

How important is to you to keep your music genuine? I'll try to make myself clear, would you be

- Mank –

I have no interest in comprising my music, I don't see the point in "selling out" and making commercial

- A&B -

Your work as a boat technician involves spending a lot of time at sea. Was it your love for nature

- Mank –

I believe everything happens for a reason. I used to work in a factory and I hated it, I was desperate to



- A&B -

How much is this job linked to your music?

- Mank –

I spend periods up to 5 weeks at a time on ships, when you are not working there is very little to do, this

- A&B -

During your sea trips, has there ever occurred any event that's really impressed you?

- Mank –

On my second arctic trip in October 2008 I saw the Aurora Borealis which I think is the most impressive

- A&B -

In which circumstances did you record "Isbjorn"? Were you heading towards the Arctic?

- Mank –

I have had two trips to the Arctic Ocean, first in September 2007 (when I recorded Isbjorn) and again in

- A&B -

Allow me a selfish question. I think the best song you've ever recorded up to now is "Quidity,

- Mank –

When writing songs I just sit down in front of the computer and see what happens. I guess what ever is

- A&B -

How has your music evolved from “Ecaz Nous”, your first album, to “Awen”?

- Mank –

Ecaz Nous was mostly sample / loop based, these days the sounds are mostly from soft synths and field recordings.

- A&B -

How can you succeed in conveying Nature inside an album? In “Awen”, the last two tracks “Blood” and “Awen” are very nature-themed.

- Mank –

Since my music is completely computer based it is very easy for it to become sterile and faceless, for that reason I try to use field recordings and nature sounds to give it a more organic feel.



- A&B -

Listening to your works, you get a "cold" feeling. How much do you think that living in the north of Norway influences your music?

- Mank –

I have to say I am very much a cold climate person, anything over 30deg and my brain starts to melt... but I think the cold climate is more of a mood than a direct influence on the music.

- A&B -

What kind of instruments do you use for the sounds on these tracks?

- Mank –

I don't think there are any "real" instruments on awen, it is entirely composed (on the same laptop I am sitting on).

- A&B -

I had the chance to look at your pictures. Some of them have been chosen to be the cover of your albums. How do you choose the artwork for your albums?

- Mank –

Thank you, usually the artwork is the last thing to happen on an album. Once it's been mixed and mastered, I look for something that fits the mood of the album.

- A&B -

You've recorded 13 albums in 10 years. Don't you ever give yourself a break?

- Mank –

It's not work, it's my hobby, this is what I do for fun, so no.

- A&B -

Is there any artist or musician you feel quite close to?

- Mank –

I don't know about "close to" but I like a lot of different people like Harold Bird, Biosphere, Loscil, Steve

- A&B -

What's in the future of Mank?

Mank [Eng]

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- Mank –

Hopefully just to keep <http://makingmusic.be/old/like-to-release-a-vid-that-we-pub-re-nice> when I play live I m

- A&B -

Thank you for this opportunity. As for me, (and I wish to say this publicly) this interview has be

- Mank –

Thank you for this opportunity for me to explain my music, I don't do much of this kind of thing, I'm not a

