

## MOVING MOUNTAINS

Pneuma CD – Deep Elm

There are few things that touch the resonant, resplendent power of Moving Mountains' *Pneuma*. Greek for "breath," the record is just that: a deep exhale. Moving Mountains' vibrant brand of vocal-infused post-rock is rare in its outrageous splendor; *Pneuma* is a release practically flawless. While quiet in profile, the record builds upon itself, track after track and layer upon layer, creating in the vocals lyrical patterns that resurface in different rhythmic and sonic incarnations in later songs. Among the record's most impressive facets are the metamorphoses through which each perfectly arranged composition travels. In the epic final track, "Ode We Will Bury Ourselves," eight minutes takes the band through warm, hazy tones through to a climactic ascension, and then fades out with the organic chill of the album's closing chant. The rest of the record, which was originally released in 2007 before being picked up by Deep Elm, follows suit; while traversing a lavish amount of lush ground – the verdant landscapes of the music's cerebral aesthetic – the consonant thread strung from start to finish is magnificent. Gregory Dunn's sweeping guitar montages provide the framework for the bevy of strings, horns and keys that escalate each moment's glory. It's framed by the sonorant percussion of Nicholas Pizzolato and tied into a memorable, majestic fifty-minute package. Prepare to be dazzled. (Meredith Turits)

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