

70's English Progressive Rock

A unique radio station on Live365.com, 70's English Progressive Rock attempts to re-create the sound 70's college radio with album cuts instead of hits, great progressive music from around the world and even some new music; but always with a focus on the progressive/folk rock coming from the British Isles in the 70's.

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Prog Music for March 2010

Sometimes it is good getting to the party late. When the folks who represent Syzygy offered to send me their latest CD, I had already heard good things about them, but had never actually heard them. I opened the mail the other day and to my surprise I found the entire 3 CD collection by the band, including their first work "Cosmos and Chaos" which was recorded under the band name, Witsend . In a short period of time, I was able to hear the growth of a group of musicians over their 16 years together.

Witsend (Cosmos and Chaos - 1993)/ Syzygy (The Allegory of Light - 2003)/ Syzygy (Realms of Eternity - 2009)

Although you can hear lots of bits and pieces of other prog bands in their music, it is in no way derivative. What is most distinctive about their sound then as it is now, is the even balance of electric guitar, acoustic guitar and keyboards. Somehow prog rock turned into prog metal and the softer acoustic instruments disappeared. With it went much of the dynamics that made prog rock so interesting. Syzygy must understand that because the acoustic guitar finds its way into nearly half of their songs throughout their 3 CD career. The biggest change between Witsend and Realms of Eternity are the addition of vocals. I believe there is only one song that really has vocals on the Cosmos and Chaos CD, whereas most of the songs on Realms have vocals. This is classic prog rock with blazing guitar and keyboard solos along with interesting and complex melodies and musical themes. The second half of Realms of Eternity is a prog rock opus featuring 7 or 8 separate but beautifully linked pieces. Syzygy has quickly become one of my favorite active prog bands. I'm so glad they found me.