

SYZYGY "Realms of Eternity" Harmonic Lizard CD Review By Todders



I have been reading probably like a few other visitors to this site Classic Rock Presents Prog over the past few months and SYZYGY have been included in almost every edition since its publication by the way of adverts promoting their latest releases.

I have not had a chance though to listen to any of their music and I was quite shocked to read a few comments on some forums reference the band which seemed quite negative as they seemed to be fed up with the constant advertising push, this is something i find a little strange as I can see no problem with bands wanting to promote their music. I however could not find much discussion about their music and this is surely what we are really interested in as music fans.

Realms of Eternity was released in 2009 and produced by Carl Baidassarre, their guitarist and vocalist who also wrote all of the lyrics for this album. It has a total running time of 77:10.

We begin with track "Darkfield" which initially in fitting with its title gives the impression of an eerie orchestral nightmare, this brightens when the crystal clear vocals kick in with some very melodic and effective guitar which just sits in the back ground effective but subtle. The bass and drums provide the back bone for the first few minutes until the vocals become a lot more forceful and dominate the soundscape ably backed by some superb keyboard playing. This song certainly moves the playing field of time signatures around and always leaves you guessing which direction it will turn. All in All an excellent 10.00 minute opening track and one I certainly will be hitting the repeat button for.

"Vanitas" is a purely instrumental track which I would describe as slightly quirky at times, with a dominating barrage of quality keyboard initially and superb bass lines. The track picks up pace with another solid drumming performance and has again numerous time changes but it always feels that it is solid composition without ever one instrument dominating within the composition of the song. The keyboards really sell this track for me though with some really unusual arrangements.

We begin the next track "Dreams" with a superb sounding guitar riff and It feels like the band have really hit their stride with this track. The vocals subtle at first with some good harmonies and atmospheric keyboard backing continue into the chorus with melodic precision but also with lots of feeling and depth. The ability to convey atmosphere in a track is a must for me and that is one thing that SYZYGY seen very good at completing. I can imagine that this track live would also work really well in

that setting also. All the instruments get a chance to shine at times but the guitar this time gets my vote with some superb fretwork, it never gets into the realm of any sort of self-indulgence whatsoever but just fits perfectly within the boundaries that have been set.

Almost medieval in its sound “Echoes Remain” is an acoustic guitar flavoured musical piece which personally I did not really take to as I felt it sounded a little out of place with the tracks that I have already heard. This is not to say it is a bad piece of music or song-writing it isn't but personally it is not my cup of tea. The vocals probably save it from disappearing of my radar completely.

“Dialectic” which is the longest track on the album at over 16.00 minutes long sees SYZGY return back to their best with another superbly composed track. It is carried along with some superb lyrics and vocals throughout. Yet again in equal measures the whole band contributes to this epic sounding piece. We have quirky but still very accessible time signature changes which really help this track develop into a real tour de-force of musical development. The guitar sounds as ever dynamic and precise without ever sounding cold or laboured. We have one part jazz at times, full on rock all with a true and sharp progressive edge. Yet again the keyboard needs a significant mention as it at times takes a background role but when required carries the weight of the song in the most dominant of fashions with all of its analogue greatness thrown into the mix.

The next eight tracks on the album are all shorter pieces which come under a sub-title of “The Sea”

Both “Arranmore Isle” and “Overture” are instrumental tracks one is purely a gentle acoustic guitar track which is atmospheric and a perfect foil for the previous track, whilst the other takes a more bombastic and symphonic approach it contains all of the musical SYZGY trademarks wrapped up in a small easily digestible format with a superb piece of guitar and keyboard interplay.

“The Sea” is a lighter and much more laid back sound for the band, it has a slighter more mainstream progressive sound than I have heard so far and I think it really works as a shorter piece. It contains some excellent vocals and fx sound effects towards the end of the song.

We begin with an acoustic guitar intro for “The Morning Song” before the heartfelt vocals begin their dreamy journey. The backing is sparse but effective for this track and proves the band do this type of song with authority and depth.

The next two songs are both mostly instrumental tracks “Variations Part 1 & Part 2. There is not a lot to choose between these songs as they present the band as a fully cohesive unit who can play their chosen instruments to a very high quality standard whilst keeping the listener entertained throughout. Trademark quirky time signatures

with superb bass playing and relentless drumming all combine to provide a real feast of instrumental greatness.

“Reflection” the title of the next song really is very apt in the scheme of the whole album as it finds the whole band in a very reflective mood subtle but dreamy and atmospheric it leads superbly onto the final track.

We have arrived at the last track which is titled “Finale” and begins with the line “Now I am almost there” which is sung with a lot of passion and authority. The guitar once again takes centre stage with a superb solo, it is helped along the way by some more superb bass and percussion who both really shine on this track. Not to be forgotten the keyboards have their say yet again with another sterling performance but I feel the vocals and the content of the lyrics take the plaudits for the dramatic way in which they are delivered.

This album was a real treat to listen to and was not what I expected at all, I feel it is an essential addition to your collection for those of you that enjoy sophisticated progressive rock with a real message.

90/100

Reviewed By Todders For Harmonic Lizard

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<http://harmoniclizard.com/?q=node/580>

Adrian Jones aka Todders Conducting Interviews For Caerllysi Music. Adrian Jones aka Todders who runs www.harmoniclizard.com joins Caerllysi Music as part of their interview team. We are very pleased to welcome one of the brightest stars on the prog internet scene here in the UK, Adrian Jones.