

AMAROK PROG – Web site review of “On Track” by DAMANEK (24/08/2017)



Damanek - On Track (Amarok Prog Mag)

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4.5 FINAL NOTE

Aan album that falls, a seasonal album that feels good summer and sun. Behind this name to Belgian sounding, 3 sizes of modern progressive **DAn Mash** (**Maschine** , **UPF**) on bass, the underrated **Guy MANning** (**Manning** , **The Tangent** , **UPF**) on vocals, guitars, keyboards and additional **MarEK Arnold**(7 Steps To The Green Door, Toxic Smile) to the keyboards and especially saxophones and clarinet ... This trio of shock is joined by a host of guests, some on all the tracks (**Sean Timms** on keyboards and choirs) or more punctually (**Luke Machin** , **Phideaux** , **Nick Magnus** , **Brody Thomas Green**).

With such a pedigree, it will not be surprising to discover music at the crossroads of **UPF** / **Southern Empire** and **The Tangent** ...

However, the contribution of **Marek Arnold** being mainly centered on the wind instruments, the sound of the group allows a few incursions towards a style a little west coast to the **Steely Dan** ("Oil Over Arabia", "Believer-Redeemer"). Apart from the long last track that will satisfy the prolific fans of epics, **Damanek** proposes a music easy enough to access, navigating between **Asia** and **Toto** at the beginning of album, with scents of **Steely Dan** when the winds enter the scene. Apart from maybe "Big Parade", or the **Santucci Horns** Come to reinforce the copper section and whose jazz side New Orleans sometimes very pronounced will put off some, not much to criticize negatively on this disc. The level is very high both in the compositions and in the sometimes virtuosic interpretation (the **Marek** clarinet or the solos of **Luke Machin** in particular). The texts are far from idiotic and allow **Damanek** to address the listener on societal

topics: Native Americans (" *Nanabohzo and the Rainbow* "), ecology (" *Long Time, Shadow Falls*" (" *Believer-Redeemer* ") or the war in the Middle East and global warming (" *Oil Over Arabia* ", " *Dark Sun* ").

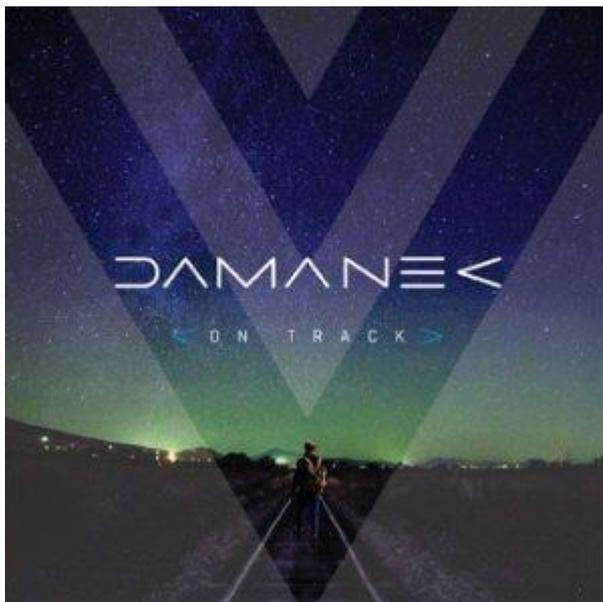
The first tracks, almost commercial, allow the defectors of **Southern Empire** (**Timms** and **Thomas Green**) to illustrate, with excellent passages of syntheses and a relentless battery. **Marek Arnold** adds an oriental touch to the clarinet and **Luke Machin** places a few killer-chorus. " *The Cosmic Score* " with the arrival of a flute evokes a **Jethro Tull** whose sound would be modernized, carried away by the keyboards of **Nick Magnus** . " *Believer-Redeemer* " and " *Oil Over Arabia* " make an incursion into the smooth-jazz: **Steely Dan** Does the prog but not that. **Dan Mash** stands out here with an almost funky bass touch at the **Nile Rodgers** . Mixed with **Timms** keyboards , **Machin** guitar and **Manning** singing the result touches the stunning.

The end of the record and the 13 minutes of " *Dark Sun* " will delight those who have found the album that the album lacks traditional prog (if anything), here **Machin** guitar at all latitude to Develop the themes, dialogue with a Fender Rhodes or a clarinet or split solos to make jealous **Gilmour** ...

I loved this record, which without taking the lead, without artificially complexifying its purpose, has succeeded in giving a youthful stroke to the neo-progressive. The mix jazz / aor / prog is a total success and allows to discover musicians who were already known in another day. Only half of the songs written by the band are on this <On Track>, so we're going to have a new band on track.

4.5 / 5

DAMANEK - ON TRACK



Title : On Track
Artist : DamaneK
Release date : 2017
Country : England
Running time : -
Label : GEP

Setlist

01. Nanabohzo and the Rainbow, 02. Long Time, Shadow Falls, 03. The Cosmic Score (Heaven Song Pt. I), 04. Believer-Redeemer, 05. Oil Over Arabia, 06. Big Parade, 07. Madison Blue, 08. Dark Sun

Line-up

(Keyboards / Saxophone, Clarinet, Seaboard), Sean Timms (Keyboards / Banjo), Alex Taylor (Guest / Trombone), Antonio Vittozzi (Guitars / (Guest), Brody Thomas Green (Drums / Guest), Chris Catling (Guitar / Guest), Davidb (Singer / Guest), Eric Santucci (Guest / Trumpet) Stephen Dundon (Guest / Flute), Tim Irrgang (Guest / Percussion), Ulf Reinhardt (Drums / Guests), Luke Machin (Guitars / Guest)