



The composite band DamaneK was last year with the debut album " **On Track** " one of the surprises of 2017. The nice mix of symphony, pop and progressive trips worked very well. An album that instantly fell out and turned out to have a lot more depth in progress than you would discover at first sight. And now, barely a year later, the second album is ready again.

Fans of the debut album can be reassured. The pleasant style of the first album is continued on "In Flight". The whole is nicely varied and offers more than enough ingredients to enjoy. It seems to be the year of Sean Timms anyway. With his band Southern Empire, he released one of the best symphonic albums of this year with " **Civilization** " and on this album he also performs great work with his keyboard playing. But most honour belongs to Guy Manning, who again took care of all music and lyrics.

The songs on the album are varied and they all have something extra to offer. *Ragusa* is a perfect opener with a nice pace and a catchy chorus. It has a wonderful groove and the vocals of Manning are very sympathetic. Sean Timms' keyboard work is plaited throughout the song. The guitar solo in the middle also tastes like more. *Skyboat* has a somewhat jazzy character and the first part partly due to the percussion a bit Caribbean. It turns out to be a strong poppy song in which the jazzy elements are preserved. The use of a lot of background singers and a small choir form a nice draft.

The Crawler is among the strongest that the album has to offer. In the beginning it is a bit mysterious and you do not really get an idea which way it will go. But once the chorus is used, the song becomes deliciously catchy with a dike of a chorus and a band like **Toto comes** to mind. But with the keys and the great saxophone game by Marek Arnold it gets a swinging character. *Moon-Catcher* is the ballad of the album. The band drops slightly here. In my opinion, this is due to the chorus that goes down to kitsch. It is the only blemish on this album.

Big Eastern is the epic of the album that is divided into three parts. It offers nearly 30 minutes of excellent entertainment. The men showcase their abilities in this and Guy Manning again proves his composing creativity. The first part of this epic is a bit subdued and in the second part the gas goes more with a leading role for the guitar. In the third part (in which you hear Asian influences), the role of Marek Arnold is more prominent again. Nice album!

Maarten Goossensen