

PROG MAGAZINE – REVIEW OF “MAKING SHORE” by Jordan Blum

DAMANEK

Making Shore GIANT ELECTRIC PEA

Eclectic social commentaries from prog rock collective.

Founded by UK prog veteran Guy Manning, Damanek's third album sees them perfecting their majestic arrangements and catchy melodies. *A Mountain Of Sky's* big choruses and energetic instrumentation evokes both mid-70s Jethro Tull, and Manning's former eponymous band. The same holds true for the aptly named *Americana*, which makes great use of backing vocalists and quirky timbres. Both the jazzy, environmentally conscious *Back2Back* and the tropical *In Deep Blue (Sea Songs Pt.1)* showcase the group's knack for spirited, wide-ranging



instrumentation as well, yet it's the lengthy five-part suite *Oculus* that impresses most. From the sophisticated textures of *Overture* to the feisty *The Corridor* and contemplative *A Welcoming Hand*, it's an adventurous and affective closing journey.

Making Shore isn't perfect. Lyrically, its messages can sometimes be a bit clichéd and sanctimonious, not least when it comes to the child welfare decrees *Noon Day Candles*. Rarely does that issue hinder the album's otherwise engaging qualities, though, so there's almost nothing keeping *Making Shore* from being another essential release. **JMB**