

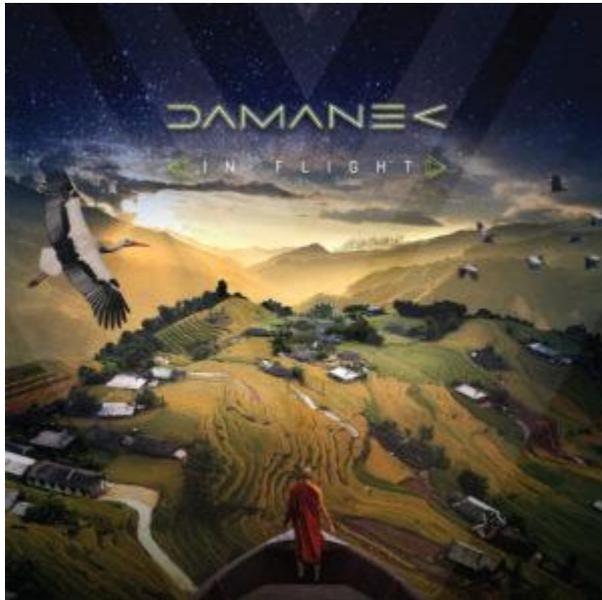


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## Damanek - In Flight

BY [HORST-WERNER RIEDEL](#) - SEPTEMBER 22, 2018



(61:23, CD, [Giant Electric Pea](#), 2018)

In addition to a large number of solo albums, singer and multi-instrumentalist *Guy Manning* is also active in other projects or bands such as [The Tangent](#). One of these projects is called Damanek and brings together several well-known musicians in order to create extraordinarily harmonious and melodious music.

After "On Track" from 2017, the musicians of Damanek publish the second studio album entitled "In Flight" after just under a year. Along the international compilation of the band with experienced musicians such as the Australian *Sean Timms*, known by [Unitopia](#) or [Southern Empire](#), the German *Marek Arnold* (including [Cyril](#), [Seven Steps to the Green Door](#) or former [Toxic Smile](#)) and the British *Dan Mash* (including [United Progressive Fraternity](#), [Maschine](#)) increase the expectation for high-quality songs and compositions.

In addition to this, there are other excellent guest musicians listed at the end. With this line-up, it's no surprise then that the current release also features a mix of Melodic Rock / AOR / Neo Prog / Jazz / Rock / Pop / Prog / Mainstream that does not hide. Significantly, for this colorful mix of music styles are some of the aforementioned successful bands.

Friends of this style can revel in this world of six songs again. However, it should not be concealed that just this type of crossover prog always involves the risk of triviality to kitsch in itself, too many representatives of this species repeatedly exceed these limits. A big advantage of the current album is that it benefits from the extraordinary quality of the musicians. The compositions on "In Flight" are not unique and are not always peppered with elements of surprise, but shine with great catchiness and melody fidelity. Apart from the charismatic and unmistakable voice of *Guy Manning* (perhaps one point of criticism for one or the other?), The beautiful saxophone solos by *Marek Arnold* are particularly striking in the weight. They give the songs a special touch with their jazzy groove. Likewise, the key work of *Sean Timms* is a pleasant enrichment and round off this production with their Catchy Hooks. If you want to experience the band live, you have the rare opportunity to do so on the "In Flight" Tour 2018 together with [Southern Empire](#) and sometimes with [Seven Steps to the Green Door](#).

Connoisseurs of *Guy Manning* and his well-known colleagues will know exactly what awaits them and like and appreciate this melodic production with its wonderful instrumental passages and little musical delicacies. For advocates of the slightly harder or more oblique faction, however, please be careful, that could just be too beautiful and too unspectacular, there's nothing wrong.

**Rating: 11/15 points**



*Damanek (Photo: Artist)*

Line-up:

*Guy Manning* - Vocals, Keyboards, Guitars; Percussion; Bass;

*Dan Mash* - Bass;

*Marek Arnold* - Saxes & Seaboard;

*Sean Timms* - Keyboards, Guitar, Backing Vocals & Additional Programming;

Guest Musicians:

*Brody Thomas Green* - Drums;

*Antonio Vittozzi* (Soul Secrets) - Guitars;

*Luke Machin* ( [The Tangent](#) , Kiama , [Maschine](#) ) - Guitars;

*Tzan Nico* - Electric Guitar;

*Raf Azaria* ( [United Progressive Fraternity](#) ) - Violin;

*DavidB* - backing vocals;

*Kevin Currie* - backing vocals;

*Julie King* - backing vocals;

*The Gospo Collective and Jones Commentary Choir*