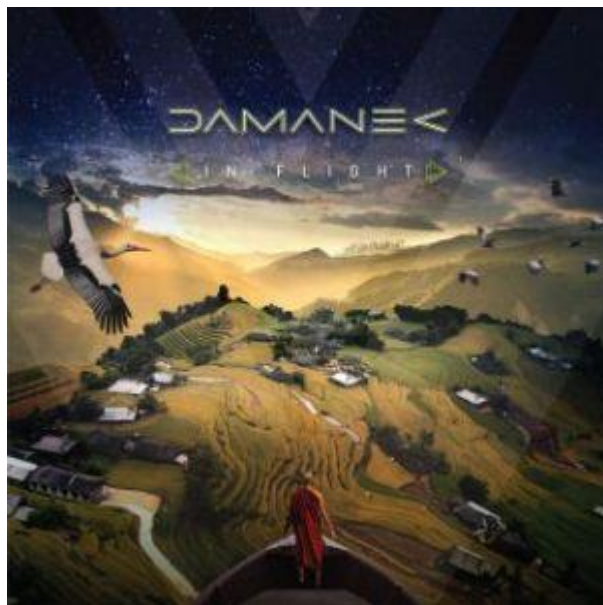


# Damanek - In Flight



Kev Rowland , 11/30/2018

I'm not sure how long I've been reviewing Guy Manning's music, describing his numerous bands, projects and records, but let's say at least twenty years. It's hard for me to remember at least one album in which he was involved and who would get a poor grade from me. He will not get the weak second album, which Manning release under the banner of Damanek. As we well remember, he has recently joined Mark Arnold and the keyboardist of the now defunct Australian unit Unitopia, Sean Timms. The composition of the band is complemented by bassist Dan Mash, as well as a number of other people (including Luke Machin and Julie King - musicians known from previous cooperation with Manning). Damanek made his debut one and a half years ago with the very well-released release "On Track" and now raised the bar even higher.

Looking at this year's charts of popularity of the Prog Archives portal, I see that the album "In Flight" is currently in the top ten and I am surprised that it is not closer to the top slot, because the Damanek group is progressive rock at its best. Guy Manning will always sound similar to Ian Anderson and Roy Harper, but none of his older colleagues had such a powerful sounding band like him. The music of Damanek's band sounds much more bombastic compared to the symphonic-progressive rock of the '70s. The album "In Flight" is sometimes quite complicated with many interesting nuances scattered here and there - for example, soft-sounding acoustic or additional drums, or maybe it's a guitar electrically taking over the lead, or also Marek Arnold, who controls the whole of his saxophone the way he can. But Guy Manning is always watching over everything. Although the music of his band is deep and dark, at the same time it is very accessible, and it's fascinating layers of musical beauty are still waiting to be discovered and begin to reveal only after the third or fourth gig.

Some people talked about Damanek as a "supergroup" and for sure in some sense it really is a real supergroup. In addition, it now boasts a real super-album. "In Flight" contains six equal, very good compositions, among which there is a three-part epic "Big Eastern", and it lasts thirty minutes. Do you have to want more? And yet there are such successful songs as "Ragusa", "The Crawler" or "The Crossing". This is a record that should be included on the shopping lists of all those listeners who are not yet its owners.

*Translation: Artur Chachlowski*