

Damanek – Making Shore

The Third album from Damanek for GEP sees the band listed as a three piece and this may have changed the overall feel and dynamic of the music, certainly not detrimentally.

This talented trio, namely, Guy Manning, Lead & Backing Vocals, Keyboards, Acoustic Guitar & Instruments, Loops, Samples, Percussion. Sean Timms - Keyboards, Backing Vocals, Programming and Marek Arnold - Saxes, SeaBoard, Additional Keyboards, blend a variety of styles into a mesmerising, thoroughly enjoyable slice of, now the ‘problems’ begin for this reviewer, in the best possible way.

It is progressive, it is rock, but there is so much more in there, take opening epic Mountain of Sky, maybe the best slice of prog rock I’ve heard in 2022, with some wonderful changes of mood and superb use of the talents of all concerned. I don’t want to give too much, if anything away, it is up to the listener to explore the magical musical tapestry, brilliantly woven into a spectacular living masterpiece.

That really goes for the rest of the album. A wonderful array of styles, from the ‘eastern’ opening of ‘Noon Day Candles’ to the lilting ‘In Deep Blue’, to the brilliantly quirky ‘Reflections on Copper’, to the full-on power of ‘The Corridor’, it is an amazing journey through musical styles and influences.

Something for everybody here, now, I hear some of you muttering that if it is that varied, how does the album flow, does it work? Simple answer is a resounding yes. Please don’t ask how they do it, but the time taken to finish this amazing album, (thanks to COVID and other hurdles to cross), means that it is a masterpiece as far as I’m concerned. Good things come to those who wait and, to me, the wait for this simply marvellous album was well, well worth it.

Paul Baker
Radio Tamworth & Hermitage FM
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