



DAMANEK-Making Shore

▲ MICHAEL HAIFL © JAN 12, 2023

~ 2023 (Giant Electric Pea) - Style: Prog Rock ~

Six years after the debut and five years after its follow-up, the core of DAMANEK still consists of Guy Manning (vocals, keyboards, guitar, samples, percussion; MANNING, UNITED PROGRESSIVE FRATERNITY, THE PATCHWORK ALLIANCE), Sean Timms (keyboards, programming ; SOUTHERN EMPIRE, UNITOPIA) and Marek Arnold (saxophone, keyboards; SEVEN STEPS TO THE GREEN DOOR, CYRIL, UNITED PROGRESSIVE FRATERNITY).

The experienced musicians are supported by drummer Brody Green (SOUTHERN EMPIRE) and guitarist Cam Blokland (SOUTHERN EMPIRE), guitarist Ralf Diets (CYRIL), bassist Jonathan Barrett (ex-TANGENT), trumpeter Riley Nixon-Burns and flutist Linda Pirie.

The sound of DAMANEK has always captivated with sounds outside of the usual Prog Rock and Neo Prog worlds. Of course they are more than familiar with the emotional progressive rock of the seventies, but DAMANEK play wide awake in the here and now.

Even the composition of their third work seems to go back to the classic songwriting of the 1970s. 'Making Shore' consists of eight compositions, with the first section containing seven of them and the second section consisting of an epic 30-minute composition.

The firework of prog rock begins immediately with a hymn to the majesty and beauty of Mount Everest. 'A Mountain Of Sky' has a simple chorus, but powerful soundscapes and ethnic sounds, even a tiny reggae digression. Musically, DAMANEK sit somewhere between THE TANGENT and THE FLOWER KINGS. What is unique, however, is the outstanding saxophone work by Marek Arnold in the solo stages.

The radiant vocals in the chorus of 'Noon Day Candles', on the other hand, seem to be out of this world, reminiscent of Jon Anderson with its aura and rhythm, while raising the word for the future of the earth and in particular the hunger in the denounced world.

In musical serenity and rather unspectacularly, 'Back2Back' takes on overpopulation and environmental pollution. Exhilarated and light-footed, 'Americana' does not move in this musical direction, but instead focuses on a farm struggling to survive in the American Midwest.

Lyrical rather personal, 'In Deep Blue (Sea Songs Pt. 1)' revolves around Guy Manning's son, who has Asperger's and completed a diving course on his own while on vacation in Greece, the song also takes elements of the Sophisticated and Synth musically pop on Broken by 'Reflections On Copper' about the fading days when darkness comes, simply speaking of dementia, 'Crown Of Thorns (Sea Songs Pt. 2)' takes on the survival of the coral reefs in a powerful way, with a dash of JETHRO TULL in the blue sea.

The great epic 'Oculus' begins with the great symphonic introduction 'Overture', before the gruesome story of a mirror and another reality behind it is told in four acts. 'Oculus' is sung narratively, relies on swinging melodies that arouse emotions, and presents the strengths of DAMANEK in epic breadth.