

Damanek: On Track (Review)

Artist:	Damanek
Album:	On Track
Medium:	CD
Style:	Progressive World Music, Art and Jazz Rock, Pop, Funk, Soul
label:	Giant Electric Pea
Playing time:	54:03
Appeared:	06/16/2017
website:	[Link]



Let's start with the whirlwind drum whirlwind, which opens the album " On Track " on "Nanabohzo And The Rainbow", or with the name-word play from the perhaps a little confusing, even false expectations, DAMANEK ?

Well, first to the band, then to the music!

Behind DAMANEK are three real Prog-sizes:

DA (n) MAN (ning) (Mar) EK - na, who comes on it?

Well, the center of the name is quickly resolved:

- * GUY MANNING from UNITED PROGRESSIVE FRATERNITY, THE TANGENT, PRALLEL OR 90 DEGREES, or solo as MANNING - singing keyboardist and multi-instrumentalist.
- * DAN MASH from UNITED PROGRESSIVE FRATERNITY and MACHINE - gifted bass player.
- * MAREK ARNOLD from UNITED PROGRESSIVE FRATERNITY, SEVEN STEPS TO THE GREEN DOOR, TOXIC SMILE, CYRIL and (formerly) STAR COMBO MEISSEN - keyboardist, clarinetist and saxophonist.

But actually, this DAMANEK concept is not complete and would have to be extended, because there is still a fourth permanent member of DAMANEK , which simply had the bad luck to be a bit too late to the band and thus can not be taken into account in the name finding:

- * SEAN TIMMS of UNITED PROGRESSIVE FRATERNITY, UNITOPIA and SOUTHERN EMPIRE - keyboardist and banjo player.

So basically, this progressive music association - let's call it simply UPF-Nebenprojekt - is a DAMANEKSE, which also has a lot of musical support from great guest musicians, including THE TANGENT, KIAMA and MACHINE, SEVEN STEPS TO THE GREEN DOOR (Ulf Reinhardt), SOUTHERN EMPIRE (Brody Thomas Green), SOUL SECRET (Antonio Vittozzi), MOLLY BLOOM (Stephen Dundon), UPF (Tim Irrgang), PHIDEAUX and NICK MAGNUS plus several backing singers and a wind ensemble.

Actually, it would have to go with the devil if DAMANEK were not another Prog-Superband, which purposefully their application for the next, perhaps UPF-like disk, "On Track" is called!

But it goes with the devil too!

And all those who have prescribed themselves as eternal, less tolerant Prog-Purists and feel obliged to evaluate every bit as little as possible under Prog-Aspect, will make eyes and ears, because on "On Track" there is indeed some art and some prog rock to listen to, which has the clearest references to the quieter UNITED PROGRESSIVE FRATERNITY titles, but this is rather a rarity, even if the album, as mentioned at the outset, begins with a drum storm, so as if it would tell us that afterwards a special attraction awaits us. The album opener "Nanabohzo And The Rainbow" starts neo-progressively and impressively, but then a wild ride takes place through very different musical directions, in which in a strange way played saxophone and clarinet, great by MAREK ARNOLD, very many free rooms are opened.

Somewhere I had depreciated to "On Track" that would be "Lounge Prog". This is a nice concept, yes, actually a new style! Only this is nothing negative, but really progressive, so progressive. And if you listen to the quarter-hour last album title "Dark Sun", it is also highly fascinating! Also because lyrically very critical damage to the environment is made to's grain rather than drifting into schwummrige prog mysticism: "Dark Sun ... hanging in a dark sky ... / Over dark streets, where the transports rumbles by."

In this "On Track" follows a concept that begins almost evocatively on "Nanabohzo And The Rainbow" with the Indian natural mythology, which ultimately turns our modernity into a dark sun.

On the other hand, there are very quiet, sometimes almost poppy ballads, but they never give up a progressive or jazzy interlude, and like the ["Long Time, Shadow Falls"](#), are very sad from the destruction of the animals or the ["The Cosmic Score"](#) of the plants World Report.

"Believer - Redeemer" surprises with soulful funky rhythms and lots of winds between CHICAGO and SANTANA, while the question is raised as to whether we have actually

fallen so far out of time that we do not even know what is going on around us "Oil Over Arabia" - this time instead of trumpet and trombone with rich saxophone and clarinet as well as bar jazz sounds spoiled - and the note: "The coastline lies dying, the ecosystem near gone. Lost in a final act of war. "- the best example of our disastrous lack of interest.

Absolute musical outburst is the following "Big Parade", which is so brave, in the Dixieland and 30s style with a marching rhythm, which incidentally unbelievable to Udo Lindenberg's "all clear on the Andrea Doria" recalls that in the wars, the armies, and the delusion of God, lies the greatest evil of this truly peaceful world, if it were not for the sake of men: "My God's better than your God."

With the piano ballad "Madison Blue" we move on to the progressive DAMANEK - Highlight "Dark Sun", which has something to offer between JETHRO TULL, PINK FLOYD and WEATHER REPORT jazz rock as well as World music plus Canterbury.

For the stylistically immensely varied " On Track " from the progressive super-association DAMANEK you should take a lot of time. For the music that crosses borders, certainly also borders, which will not taste the one or the other in its own built music-style cage prisoner. And for the texts in which the fear of everything natural in our fast-moving time, which takes no account of nature at all, is the great theme. Here we do not experience the elevated index finger, but rather go back to the Indian time, in order to see at the end (the album) with a sad glance towards heaven - like the lonely man in the CD-Einleger - that the darkness is nothing more with a day-and-night rhythm, but the dark sun has to do.

In the end, something else for insiders.

In co - operation with the "EK" in DAMANEK , MarEK Arnold, who is currently [in a special section for our site](#) about his time with all bands in which he is active or - also, of course, about DAMANEK - as well as his guest contributions with other musicians and the we learned from him that Dan Mash and he had been recording song ideas for three days at Guy Manning in Leeds. Also, there were demos with several guest singers who did not land on " On Track " and they were thinking about bringing out a double album. But do not worry, for DAMANEK 2 is already in work and then we can of course be surprised if the songs ...

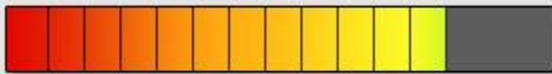
CONCLUSIONS: With " On Track " by DAMANEK with participating musicians, who are part of the "Who Is Who" of the current Prog scene mixes a stylistically surprisingly varied world music album, which is not guaranteed in the scene Wind instruments -

predominantly saxophone and clarinet - the prog niche belongs and is no limits. Other people may discuss this.

PS. As before, it is still possible for us to ask questions about Marek Arnold about his bands and / or projects, which, if they are really good, are answered directly by him in the regular sequel series. In this case, the questioner also receives a very personal, guaranteed signed and special thanks from the musician, who especially gives his DAMANEK saxophone and clarinet performance a very special note. [[Buy album at Amazon](#)]

Thoralf Koß (Review 272x, published on 26/10/2017)

Rating: 12 out of 15 points



Tracklist:

- Nanabohzo And The Rainbow
- Long Time, Shadow Falls
- The Cosmic Score
- Believer Redeemer
- Oil Over Arabia
- Big Parade
- Madison Blue
- Dark Sun

Occupation:

- **Bass** - [Dan Mash](#)
- **Singing** - [Guy Manning](#) , [Phideaux](#) , [DavidB](#) , [Julie King](#) , [Kevin Currie](#)
- **Guitar** - [Antonio Vittozzi](#) , [Luke Machin](#) , [Guy Manning](#) , [Sean Timms](#) , [Chris Catling](#)
- **Keys** - [Sean Timms](#) , [Marek Arnold](#) , [Guy Manning](#) , [Nick Magnus](#)
- **Drums** - [Brody Thomas Green](#) , [Ulf Reinhardt](#) , [Tim Irrgang](#) , [Guy Manning](#)
- **Other** - Marek Arnold (saxophones, clarinets), Stephen Dundon (flute), The Santucci Horns

All reviews of this band:

- [On Track](#) (2017) - 12/15 points