

## CHRONIC

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### DAMANEK - In Flight

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Training led by the imposing English multi-instrumentalist **Guy Manning** who participated in many formations (Parallel or 90 Degrees, The Tangent, UPF), this one finally has a rather international coloring since within it one also finds there the Australian **Sean Timms** (Unitopia, UPF, Southern Empire) and the German **Marek Arnold** (Toxic Smile, Cyril, SSTTGD ...) so in fact, three important figures of the landscape "Prog" of today. presence of **Dan Mash** (bass), **Luke Machin** (guitars) or **Brody Thomas Green**(drums and percussion), the basic trio taking care of the rest as for example the keyboards (synths, piano or organs), the saxophone and the soprano-saxophone singing being provided by Guy Manning in person.

This is the second album for the formation since a first opus was released in 2017, a discographic output which coincides here with a tour articulated around other formations (Southern Empire, SSTTGD) where, appear some of the same musicians within of the three groups, the proof with a passage to the *Spirit of 66* of Verviers reported elsewhere in a report published on our site. It's on a *Pink Floyd* mode that the first composition starts then, appears the characteristic voice of Guy Manning to start a progressive rock rather melodic and slightly atmospheric. A nice passage to the piano comes here colored a first piece also traveling in a certain way to the neoclassical, it follows a very nice guitar solo that retains the imprint of the *Floyd* for a fairly accessible composition where comes back running the electric guitar. We continue on a rather jazzy rhythm and even South American with even some suspicions of funk without forgetting the arrival of the organs, a well-timed piece that finally approaches more of a *classic-rock* while keeping the vintage and jazzy side even more, as Marek's brass instruments come here to support the jazz imprint within this multi-faceted piece.

We then stay the course of a mix between rock-progressive, classic-rock and jazz-rock on the rest of the album, all still carried by the song of Guy Manning without forgetting here and there the solos of guitars of Luke Machin, and the judicious intervention of Marek's saxophone or soprano-saxophone that illuminates certain passages. Of course the two keyboardists (Guy and Sean) do not forget the atmospheric or vintage dimension with for the latter the sound of the organs,. *"The Crawler"* is a vibrant example as the composition sways through a maze of sound borrowing multiple specific paths.

Moments are also present to allow to deposit beautiful jazzy and felted ambiances where, the saxophone and the synths make like velvet idem for the guitar which is bluesy and sweet for the final, to offer the beautiful ballad *"Moon-Catcher"* which still makes a connection with a more

traditional composition architecture. For the rest we continue with this jazz-rock that uses all the colorations of instruments in place (piano, organ, saxophone, soprano-saxophone, guitar ...), the goal being to offer the listener a musical result that will appeal to both a progueux and a jazz-rock lover ... a kind of controlled fusion rather pulling on the progressive, which has the distinction of highlighting each instrument used through technical passages always fluid and melodic.

Here is a varied and multi-color album that has the merit of being affordable for everyone so, enjoy-dear members !