

PBII "Plastic Soup" CD Review by Gert



PBII - Plastic Soup

PBII started off in the seventies and eighties as the band Plackband. Nickname they earned back then was being called the Dutch-Genesis. While the Genesis link still can be found in the music, PBII sounds a bit heavier now. Other bands that come up in me while listening are Marillion and Porcupine Tree. Again it's just being influenced by both bands and not copying their sound.

Theme of Plastic Soup is the pollution of the environment. At first i was bit afraid this would be overdone and become preaching but thankfully the album never goes that way. They just try to make us aware of the ecologic disaster happening in the Great Pacific while we speak. Hearing the whale sound on "The great pacific garbage" makes the message a bit chilling, as, i guess, it should be.

Best tracks on the album for me are the already mentioned track "The great pacific garbage patch", which has spoken words by oceanograph Charles Moore woven into it, and "It's your life" which is a spine-chilling song thanks to the vocal work of Heidi Jo Hines.

Weird track for me is the bass solo called "Ladrillo" which for some reason i can't place in the total picture of the album. I had the same thing with "(Anesthesia) Pulling Teeth" on the debut of Metallica which name immediately popped up while listening to "Ladrillo". I have to admit though it's great bass playing by Harry den Hartog but for me as a track on it's own it doesn't work.

Guests on the album are the already mentioned Heidi Jo Hines, Jon Jowitt (IQ) who plays the bass on "Fata Morgana" and John Mitchell (Arena) who plays lead guitar on "Cradle to cradle".

You can't really call Plastic Soup a debut album since three of the members of PBII were already playing together while still being called Plackband but never the less it's a great start up album under the flag of PBII and with the world-wide support of ProgRock Records they hopefully get the attention they deserve.

Reviewed By Gert For Harmonic Lizard

80/100