

PROGWERELD

Built for the Future

The best thing about being a reviewer is discovering new music. You will receive an album in your mailbox that you have never heard of. You decide to listen a bit and then you are immediately sold. I can still remember that I listened to the first EP from Gazpacho "Get It While It's Hot", that I was impressed by "Deliverance" by Sylvan and was surprised by the debut album "Underground Community" by Harvest and "A Doorway To Summer" from Moon Safari. You can already feel it coming, the debut album of the American duo of Built For The Future can certainly be added to that.

When a band on paper compares its own music as a mix of Rush and Tears For Fears, you immediately get my attention. The last mentioned duo in particular are the heroes of my youth. It is even nicer when the statement turns out to be correct. Built For The Future (b4tf) consists of singer Kenny Bissett and multi-instrumentalist Patric Farrell. The latter has also written almost all the songs.

What can we expect from this concept album? Twelve great songs that each contain a blissful melody, as well as a catchy chorus and wonderful instrumental trips. This style is more known as crossover prog. Think of a potpourri of Rush, Tears For Fears, Days Between Stations, Sound Of Contact, The Beatles, Arena and Yes. Patric Ferrell dedicated this album to his musical hero Chris Squire.

Every song is so nicely catchy that you are completely absorbed in it and you have to be careful that you don't suddenly start singing along in a full train. Take the title track Chasing Light, the chorus lingers for days, the floating neo-prog keys drive you time and again to the edge of your chair and the guitar work continues to taste more. The way in which the drums are put into the mix also contributes to the power of the music. The singing voice of Kenny Bissett is very pleasant to listen to and when the men sing together, it is always goosebumps on their arms.

A song like Burning Daylight has a nice 80s sauce about it. You hear a hint of Visage (Fade To Gray) and the keyboard work is reminiscent of A-Ha. The song transforms to more up-tempo and then Rush ("Hold Your Fire" period) comes to the fore as a reference. After almost an hour of listening and enjoying, b4tf has one last trump card in its hands: The Great Escape, which lasts more than twelve minutes. In this the duo once again displays its qualities. A brilliant song in which a large part of the previous songs has been subtly processed.

The duo had a few hundred albums pressed, mainly to sell to friends and acquaintances and to send some promos. He did not expect the Bandcamp page of the band to be flooded with enthusiasts. All albums were sold out stiffly within a few weeks. It is therefore hoped that a label will wake up and offer these men a contract very quickly. Because this album could very well sell within our world. As far as Patric Farrell is concerned, the concept consists of several albums, so there are plenty of plans. A band to keep an eye on.

Maarten Goossensen