


ROCKREPORT Review of MANNING "The Root, the Leaf & the Bone"

MANNING
The Root, The Leaf & The Bone
© 2013 Festival Music (201310)
progressive rock
studio album
9 tracks - TT 66:09
release date: October 7, 2013
<http://www.guymanning.com>

Although Manning doesn't provide us with easily digestible chunks of progrock, I might say that I like the band for one reason or another. If we forget last year's hiatus album "Akoustik", this strangely titled "The Root, The Leaf & The Bone" is the follow-up to 2011's "Margaret Children", which – with hindsight – can probably be called Manning's best album so far. The new album is Guy Manning's fourteenth in fourteen years, which is quite an achievement in these days. Guy Manning has this to say about the new album: "Late 2012 I toyed with an idea about a faded village, lost beneath the march of progress, expansion, modernization changes in perception/values & building work. I started creating pieces based around these themes. However, I quickly realized that this was too far constricting a 'concept' as I had ideas for other pieces which did not neatly fit into this container. All the pieces did however seem to fit into a more general set of considerations about the nature of change ... be it through progress, attitudes, sociological upheaval, natural cycles/states, nostalgia, or simply viewed as fantasy." Apart from "Autumn Song" and the album's closing track "Amongst The Sleepers" all tracks hark back to that original 'village' idea. As always there's a lot to discover here and therefore I would like to recommend you to check out the lyrics in the booklet. Musical wise, you may expect another album in the best Jethro Tull vein. Another fine eclectic progrock release ... ( CL)

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USDHEAD (on 14/11/13)



From my perception this is simply a magical, if quirky series of stories set to music that are full of surprises, unusual instrumentation and fascinating ideas and characters (Eleanor Rigby, Mr Jones, Mrs Crowther, the Man from U.N.C.L.E, foreign bankers taking their girlfriends for sex and afternoon tea) melded together to produce an album that is worthy of being heard by anyone who is not generically blinkered but simply adores beautiful, mainly quite gentle rock music.