

“AKOUSTIK” by MANNING

PROGRESSIVE WAVES site

Since 1999, and apart from a short break in 2008, Guy Manning has released 12 albums with metronomic regularity, the rhythm of output each year.

So, just to make a first assessment of this already rich career, Andy Tillison's favourite accomplice offers us not a mere compilation, but a selection of 12 tracks from each of his productions, rearranged and replayed in an acoustic composed of his loyal lieutenants.

A simple reading of the title of the album, I can see some players turn their heads and ignore this Akoustik, this genre often confining the economy of means, the risk quickly generate the listener boredom and frustration.

And when we know that the work of the artist is already strongly tinged acoustic-folk sound ... Well no, stop this trial of intent would be a serious mistake.

Far from being a simple best-of cheaply made, Akoustik reveals itself as an exciting proofreading carefully selected titles in the impressive work of Guy Manning, and arranged to provide an exciting album.

The main merit of this rereading acoustic demonstrate all the qualities of melodist and arranger our man, despite (or because?) relative to a harmonic counting.

Relative because if electricity use is limited to bass and vintage keyboards, orchestration that accompanies each of these titles is still plentiful, even managing to forget some hiccups voice escorting two or three titles.

So of course, the original progressive component that underlay the various titles in their original version has almost disappeared, but it will not detract from the quality of these new interpretations.

And for the diehards, keyboards and analogue intensive use of the flute can keep colour in relation to the golden era cherished by these amateurs!

Alternating intimate passages with happiness and most dynamic parts, the group gathered around Guy Manning seems to take obvious pleasure in this bracket, a kind of intermediate stage before moving to a second career from.

In any case, this album is certainly not to be overlooked in the band's discography, both for the faithful and for those who wish to immerse themselves in the long history of the British artist.

Written by TonyB on 19/11/2012