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Record review: Spyro Gyra: A Foreign Affair



David Voigt, Toronto Music Examiner

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As Toronto record stores do get stocked with the latest and greatest new releases every Tuesday it can be a little daunting to keep up with everything out there; however that doesn't mean there aren't a few things to find once you take a good look. Out this week is the latest from some jazz fusion veterans who after 30 + years together 25 albums and over 10 million records sold are back and bringing some of their musical experiences from touring all over the world to their fans in a neat package. It's time to give "Spyro Gyra: A Foreign Affair" a spin.

With their new record Spyro Gyra started out with the rhythms of the world. From the samba rhythms and Caribbean feel of their early hits to the latest album, they have made it a point to embrace the music of the places they have visited. Their new album, A Foreign Affair, is ready to take you around the world from the Caribbean to South America, and even to South Africa, India and Japan. Besides the memorable instrumentals, there are also three vocal tunes, one of which features Grammy® winning Keb 'Mo.

Video: [Spyro Gyra](#)

Rating for [Spyro Gyra: A Foreign Affair](#):

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35 years after the release of their first record it is a fairly telling what an enduring act Spyro Gyra has become as their last four albums have actually been nominated for a Grammy®. While not everything that these jazz fusion icons have done will speak to everyone, in their explorations of world music and themes there are a few tracks on this record that stand above stuff you may hear in your dentist's office.

The second cut on the album "Khuda" may very well be the first ever track by a Western group sung completely in Hindi. Working with Mumbai producer and composer Sandeep Chowta, the addition of the Strings and Dudek samples combined with the haunting vocals of Arijit Singh gave the track an ethereal feel and elevated it above the standard jazz fusion fare. On "Shinjuku" we get a bit of a Japanese vibe with some cool string work that could have been sampled from an old Kurosawa movie, but with as the jazz fusion sound takes over it sounds more like it belongs in "The Karate Kid" films from the 80's. The extra layer of vocals and percussion adds a real smooth feel to the intended Latin flavor of "Chileno Boys". On "Last Call" with Keb 'Mo on vocals, you easily feel like it is 3AM at a smoke filled jazz club and you missed out on the girl of your dreams as they are playing out the door into the lonely city night you're just not prepared for.

At the end of it all, there are a few real smooth and enjoyable cuts on "Spyro Gyra: A Foreign Affair" that are more than

worth downloading, but the entire album is really for fans of the band and the jazz fusion genre.

Key Tracks: “Last Call” & “Khuda”

2 out of 5 stars.

“Spyro Gyra: A Foreign Affair” is available at record stores across Toronto, click [here](#) for a list of some of the finer ones, or you can visit my personal favorite right [here](#). Ultimately though your best bet to pick this CD up would be through an online retailer like [seeofsound.com](#).

To learn more about Spyro Gyra, you can visit their site right [here](#).

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By [David Voigt](#)
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David Voigt, a regular contributor to the Examiner.com, was a content manager in entertainment industry. His 12 years of experience have provided...

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