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The Impaler Speaks

Tak Matsumoto - Strings Of My Soul



Tak Matsumoto – Strings Of My Soul ([335 Records/MVD Audio](#))

For those who don't know, Tak Matsumoto is one half of the Japanese pop/rock duo B'z, who have sold over 80 million records and are widely considered to be the single most popular Japanese band in existence, which is mighty impressive. Matsumoto also won a Grammy for a collaboration with 335 Records co-owner and renowned jazz guitarist Larry Carlton, and he is – at present – the first and only guitarist from Asia to have a signature model Gibson guitar, and his is the granddaddy of them all: a Les Paul. 'But Tak,' you might be saying, 'what have you done for me lately?' What he's done for you lately, jaded reader, is record 'Strings Of My Soul', a beautiful collection of mostly-instrumental songs that are, naturally, a showcase for his more-than-impressive skills as a guitarist. While there is a definite feeling of jazz-fusion throughout the album – and Carlton joins in for the futuristic 'Sukiyaki' – there are moments when guitar geeks will note the influence of rock-based six-string heroes such as Uli Jon Roth, Neal Schon, and even Ace Frehley. (I swear! Listen to 'Sasanqua – Winter Sun' and tell me you don't hear echoes of 'Fractured Mirror'!) I'm at a loss to try and further describe this album, but I don't think it is necessary to say much more. If you want to hear a world-class guitarist play a dazzlingly beautiful collection of songs with enough edge to keep at least the bulk of it out of the world's elevators but with nary a moment of over-the-top metal-influenced shredding on display, look no further than 'Strings Of My Soul'. [The Impaler @impalerspeaks](#)

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The Impaler Speaks... supporting local music worldwide, from Austin TX to the United Kingdom and everywhere else. The Impaler has been a member of the Mass Movement creative team since it was a cut-n-paste fanzine many years ago. This is a way to add some depth to the coverage I am able to provide in MM, and so much more.... Support indie music. Support indie film. Support indie life.

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