



PROG ROCK PARADISE: Double CD sets remind listeners of Poland's mighty Progressive Rock scene!



When the average music listener thinks of **Prog Rock**, most likely the bands **Yes, Genesis, Emerson Lake & Palmer** and **King Crimson** spring to mind first. The more 'educated' music fan (ie: geek) will probably throw in names like **Van Der Graaf Generator, Gentle Giant** and maybe some more modern acts like **Marillion** and **Dream Theater**. But, like any music scene, things get exciting when you look beyond the U.S. and UK shores and start digging deeper into bands from other countries like Italy, Germany and Poland. While English lyrics may grace most of the releases, some of the bands do sing in their native tongue. But isn't it the music and musicianship that matters most?

**Metal Mind Productions** is a Polish label and one of the finest Rock/Prog/Metal labels in the universe. Whether you love Thrash Metal, Death Metal, classic Heavy Metal, AOR or Prog, Metal Mind has something you'll slobber over. Yes, they did sign a band by the name of **Anal Stench** (insert your favorite 'stink' joke here) but they also handled some amazing reissues by AOR and classic Metal bands like **Giuffria, Boulevard, Lillian Axe** and **Tank**. In fact, their catalog is so varied that it's always exciting to see what they release next. You may not love everything on the label, but there's something for everybody to love.

Some may love to scan the radio dials and look for something 'new' to listen to. Others may want to read **Rolling Stone** or **Pitchfork** to stay on top of the latest musical trends. Me? I just love to hear as much as possible in any way that I can. And yes, I am very blessed to be able to listen to a lot of different things each week, whether they are new artists or reissues. With that being said, Metal Mind is a label I'll always pay attention to. I don't like all of it, but I appreciate the fact that they exist and they are great at doing what they do. With each of their releases that I'm lucky to get a hold of, I listen and I learn.

Being a relative newcomer to their catalog, I was over the moon when they released a batch of 2CD sets that contained a pair of albums by some of Poland's greatest Prog Rock artists: **SBB, Collage, Satellite** and **Believe**. These 2CD sets are reasonably... no, make that incredibly... priced and should be snapped up by anyone wishing to expand their musical horizons, Prog Rock or otherwise.

### SATELLITE

Continuing with Collage offshoots, **Satellite** was formed by that band's drummer, lyricist and co-writer **Wojtek Szadowski**. With the help of new bandmates and some of his Collage pals, Satellite's music picks up where his old band's *Moonshine* album left off. Mesmerizing melodies drift in and out of expertly arranged Prog movements, never sounding old and tired. Frustrating as it seems, Satellite are constantly compared to Collage, although they do tend to travel above and beyond the musical boundaries that he helped create merely two decades ago. The two double disc sets include the

albums *A Street Between Sunrise And Sunset/Into The Night* and *Evening Games/Nostalgia*.

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