

REVIEW SCALE

- 5** – The album is excellent, it could also be considered perfect or near perfect. There may be a few glitches or setbacks, but they are not detrimental.
- 4** – The album is very good. There aren't too many glitches or setbacks but the ones that are present keep the album from being excellent.
- 3** – The album is mediocre. While the album is alright, there isn't anything that makes it stand out above other albums. Some of it is good, and some of it needs work.
- 2** – The album is bad. Many things have gone wrong, and unless it happens to be within your personal favorite genre, chances are it's not even worth your time. The band has a lot to work on.
- 1** – The album is terrible. The album isn't worth your time, no exceptions.

Note: Be aware that in November 2004 the grading scale was revised to how it is shown above in order to maintain more consistencies between our reviewers. Many of the reviews in our Archive may include ½ marks and ¼ marks and please be aware that the ratings at that time were also more open to our reviewers' interpretations of the rating scale, as opposed to this now absolute grading scale which our reviewers are responsible to follow in their rating procedures.

REVIEWS

MSG – In The Midst Of Beauty - added - April 2nd, 2008

Reviewer: **Ruben Mosqueda**



4/5

Michael Schenker makes yet another comeback after single handedly dismantling one of the best bands that he had put together, that being the band that toured behind the *Arachnophobic* and *Beware Of Scorpions* records. Fresh off his latest meltdown Schenker bounced back and enlisted the services of former MSG singer Gary Barden for the album that would become *In The Midst Of Beauty*, but it wasn't enough to just have just one first class musician on board, oh no. Schenker pulled out his rolodex and called up keyboardist Don Airey who previously played with Coverdale in Whitesnake and recently landed the role of Jon Lord in Deep Purple, also heeding the call is bassist Neil Murray also of Whitesnake fame and rounding out the group is Simon Phillips who is known for his stellar drumming in Toto.

On paper it's a fan's *dream team*, high caliber players that sound tight together but in the end the result is fairly good. The Schenker signature sound and leads are there but songs aren't as dazzling as you hoped for. *In The Midst Of Beauty* it doesn't hold up to previous Barden/Schenker collaborations, but then again you can't capture that first experience again...ever. "Night To Remember" sounds like a solid leftover Deep Purple track; great guitar groove with organ pumping in the background, "End Of The Line," and "The One" showcase vintage Schenker riffs which are the basis of each track, "Summerdays" is a great example of the Schenker/Barden chemistry of old. "Come Closer" is a great three minute rocker that has classic rock radio staple all over it. *In The Midst Of Beauty* turned out to be a good MSG album; hopefully this is indeed Schenker's first step in his climb back from his self-induced hell. I'm pulling for the *Mad Axe Man*.