

YOU KNOW I'M BORN TO LOSE, AND GAMBLING'S FOR FOOLS

- "Ace Of Spades", Motorhead

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## [MSG - In the Midst of Beauty](#)



Being in a band is like being married, individuals get together to make music, and if it works it could turn into a long unity, but if not it could turn into a nasty divorce. The fans, in a sense, are the children in this odd scenario and it hurts them if the marriage doesn't work out. It is interesting when bands get back together after being apart for some time. As the children, we're excited that mom and dad have reconciled, but how good will it be and how long will it last? That brings me to the whole point of this review, after approx. 24 years **Michael Schenker** and **Gary Barden** have decided to join forces once again and this can be heard in the form of *In the Midst of Beauty*. The new CD also brings back a few familiar faces in drummer **Simon Phillips (Toto)** and keyboardist **Don Airey (ex Ozzy, Deep Purple and Whitesnake)** whom haven't played with Schenker in almost 28 years. What will come of this new found unity? Let's find out.

*In the Midst of Beauty* brings back most of the classic line up from 1980 and the lead off track *City Lights* sounds like it came from that era. The production on the CD sounds dated and flat. The song is average, but it does get better with each listen. The next track *Competition* follows the same trend, average and dated, and it wasn't until the 3rd track, *I Want You* that I got interested. *I Want You* is a midpaced rocker, like the majority of the CD is, but it has a spark that two previous tracks didn't possess. It is a catchy and memorable track, with some killer axework from Mr. Schenker. The rest of the CD follows this pattern with the obligatory ballad thrown in.

Schenker sounds like he has been revitalized on this release. The solos smoke and are some of the best that he has done in years. The only downside to the CD is that some of the songs sound dated and I would attribute that to the poor production. Another factor for the dated sound may be Airey's keyboards. His Hammond style organ keyboards give the tracks a sort of early Deep Purple vibe which harkens back to a late 70's/early 80's sound. Check out the Purple-ish track *Night to Remember* and you'll see what I mean. All in all a pretty solid release with some room to grow.

**Bottom Line:** *Some of the best work Schenker has done in years. Let's just hope he can keep his head on straight and this reconciliation can last for a few more outings.*



**Standout Tracks:** *I Want You, This Time, The One and Night to Remember.*

**Ragman** *wants mommy and daddy to stay together.*

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