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Marillion - Somewhere Else

Marillion – Somewhere Else

No Such Thing

Voice From The Past

The Wound

Somewhere Else

Most Toys

Thank You Whoever You Are

The Other Half

See It Like A Baby

Last Century For Man

Faith



Marillion are one of those bands who seem to have been around forever. First finding fame in the early 80's with giant lead vocalist Fish and having hits with the likes of Kayleigh and Lavender, the band took a major shift in direction when Steve Hogarth arrived to take lead vocals from the earlier departed big man. After several lineup changes the band are currently lined up as follows: Steve Hogarth (vocals), Steve Rothery (guitars), Pete Trewavas (bass), Mark Kelly (synths) and Ian Mosley (drums). A proper band then. And one with its traditions steeped in progressive rock as well...

Where Marillion seriously need some credit is that this is album number fourteen, and that this and the previous two albums were financed purely by donations from their fanbase. With this in place, the band have a distribution deal in place but retain control over all their material. This is a pretty radical way of making music in the modern corporate world for a major band, albeit one on the commercial wane at the time. Respect to both the band and their fanbase for continuing to support each other the way they have.

Enough of that though, what of album number fourteen? This album is described in fan circles as a bit of departure from previous albums in that it appears to be more focused and song oriented. That said, they've clearly not left their prog rock traditions behind and despite most songs aiming for the 4 minute mark, a few linger on between 6 to 8 minutes. Apart from the, by comparison, extremely short track Most Toys that clocks in at less than 3 minutes.

Speaking of Most Toys, this track really should have been left off. The track is a bit of a mess both musically and lyrically and doesn't fit with the rest of the album. It's tries to be a single length anthem but just sounds disjointed. It's the one failure here but thankfully it's over quickly. Lyrically this album is a bit of a hotch potch. Hogarth has some good ideas but some of his lyrics either go off on a tangent or just don't fit with the music. Hogarth deals in love, death, the environment, the third world and faith (amongst other subjects) but has a tendency to try to say too much. It's really the only drawback though. Credit where it's due though (again), Faith is an excellent way to close the album and near perfect.

Overall it's a very laid back sound that doesn't really rock out in the same manner of more in your face bands. This is clearly a band that are ease with themselves and who are masters of their particular instruments. Not over produced, the sound is nevertheless full and spacious, not to mention quite powerful when it needs to be. Sometimes it sounds more like a jam than a structured song, but that is clearly the genius of a band who have been together since 1979 and who are steeped in progressive rock.

The title track Somewhere Else is a prime example where the band lull you into a false sense of laid back security for roughly six and a half minutes before notching the guitars up to eleven for the final minute. And they don't just wait until the end either. Without the standard template of how a song should sound, Marillion switch styles and sounds whenever they feel like it, it's certainly a freestyle type of rock and one that will please long-term fans.

There is a problem with this album though; it's not immediate. The quality is good, the band very much at ease with themselves, but you need to be in the right mood to listen to this; it doesn't have a solid bass line or beat you can just grab hold of. It's atmospheric and good for chilling out to, and it's a grower.

Added: Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Reviewer: [Si_W](#)

Score: ★★★★★

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