



THE ROCK & ROLL FARM REPORT

Reviews by the Rev. Keith A. Gordon

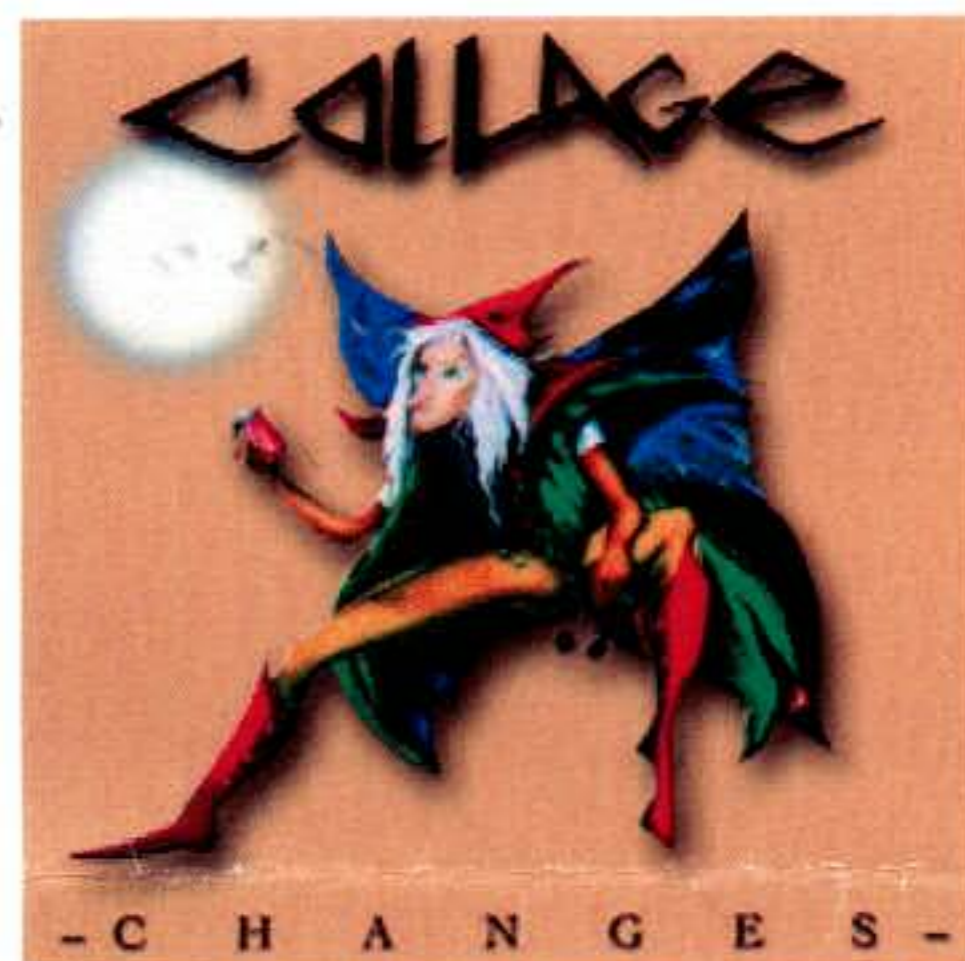
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[COLLAGE - Changes](#)

Further proof that progressive rock is a worldwide phenomenon, Poland's Collage is one of the most innovative and interesting bands in the genre. Formed in 1985 by students of the Frederic Chopin Academy Of Music in Warsaw, the band released its first album, *Basnie*, in 1990. It was with the release of their 1993 sophomore effort, *Nine Songs Of John Lennon*, which features Collage re-imagining classic Beatles and Lennon solo songs as exotic prog-rock compositions, that the band really caught on with audiences from Europe to Asia. They followed up that album with the melodic, pop-oriented *Moonshine* in 1994. Originally released in 1995, *Changes* revisits Collage material circa 1985 through 1992 with new vocalist Robert Amirian (who sung on *Moonshine*), including re-recorded songs from *Basnie* and previously unreleased songs. Even with lyrics sung in Polish, there is no denying the power of the music.

Guitarist Mirek Gil is an inventive and skilled six-string maestro, while the rest of the band weaves a dense, multi-textured tapestry of sound behind Amirian's lofty and passionate vocals. More than merely prog, Collage produce art-rock of the highest degree, dreamy and mesmerizing music that demands that the listener pay attention. Highly recommended for fans of the Flower Kings or Spock's Beard, Collage is guaranteed to provide the same thrill of musical adventure as those legendary bands. ([Metal Minds](#) / [MVD Audio](#))



[THE EXPLODING HEARTS - Shattered](#)

One of the most exciting and promising young bands to hit the scene in a generation, the Exploding Hearts literally came and went in a flash. The band released its excellent debut album, *Guitar Romantic*, in early 2003, the disc showcasing a brilliant mix of '60s-styled garage rock and vintage '70s power-pop, influenced by '80s-era punk and UK rock. *Guitar*

