

SATELLITE
Into The Night

Metal Mind



Into The Night concludes the progressive rock/metal trilogy concept that came from the mind of drummer Wojtek Szadkowski. This record from the Polish quintet Satellite fuels three decades of a movement that contains brilliant, expansive arrangements, dynamics second to none in terms of musical ability and an overriding sense of awe as these five musicians push the boundaries of English and American inspired music. How many bands do you know are willing to place a 13:30 epic such as “Dreams” the second cut in on the album - complete with Marillion-like guitar lines and a vocal that seems in tune with Arena, Genesis or even the master Fish himself? The

follow up “Downtown Skyline” takes things down into more of a low-key drum laden approach, with vocalist Robert Amirian allowing the softer serene verses room to breathe as the keyboards take a New Age meets current Toto feel. The American version of *Into The Night* contains two bonus tracks, filling out the timeframe at an hour.

I believe Satellite will appeal to two generations of progressive rock aficionados. The older sect of Peter Gabriel led Genesis, 70’s Yes or Nektar enjoy the analog tones and instrumentation of yesteryear while the newer generation get to latch on to a band that is creating fresh material that should keep the movement forward thinking and vigorous. Robert’s vocals aren’t screaming or high pitched in nature- which allows the listener to understand the full Satellite experience without any particular musician being in the spotlight. I felt like *Into The Night* propelled me into 1975, then would suck me back into 2008 within the next riff or song. “Forgiven and Forgotten” is a personal favorite, a wild tranquil montage of tropical guitar chords and a main keyboard riff that sits well in Egyptian-ish phrasing while the cultural vocal melody reverberates in my head incessantly.

Hopefully with new North American distribution Satellite will move beyond European appeal into international appreciation. Highly recommended.

A -Matt Coe