



HOME



ABOUT US

CD
REVIEWS

REISSUES

DVD
REVIEWSCONCERT
REVIEWS

CONTACT



LINKS



SBB - SBB (Metal Mind Records) *****

Poland's longest-running progressive band, **SBB**, released a brand new self-titled album. It was done only by the two core members: Josef Skrzek, and Apostolis Anthimos. Both of them being multi-instrumentalists, they had no problem getting the job done. No reason given why drummer, Gabor Nemeth, was sidelined for this release, but at the same time Apostolis Anthimos is an accomplished skins-man himself.

This is a very special album. What the band is attempting to do here is to write their own biography using sounds. Each of the 16 cuts is titled after an event in band's history, and it goes in the chronological order, starting from the early basement days to now. Each track carefully explained in the booklet. Let's hope the English version of this release will include the translation, as it is a very vital piece of information. The album itself is very long, much like SBB's career, it nears the 80 minute mark.

Even though the tracks are separated, it feels like a one long suite. The tracks are mostly instrumental with Skrzek vocalizing thought, but not singing any actual lyrics. SBB goes through many different moods on this album, utilizing quite a few new sounds and arrangements. Despite the fact that many of the songs deal with the past, the sound is quite modern, yet still undoubtedly SBB. The songs feature Skrzek's unforgettable bass line, and his dreamy moog landscapes, and Apostolis's vibrating guitar. If there is a player who mastered a way to make his guitar fly gently, Apostolis is definitely the man.

What SBB is proposing here musically is incredibly challenging, but with each listen, one sees the beauty of the sounds, and the heartfelt sincerity in the way it is delivered. One may say, SBB is baring its soul on this album, and that wouldn't be far from the truth. One thing however is undoubtedly true, after 40 years in the business, SBB is as uncompromising and true to their vision as they were back in 1974. Their vision has outlived the communism, artistic persecution, and various musical trends that came and went. And after repeated listens, this writer is completely enchanted by the sounds within.

Mark Kadzielawa