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Classic Rock Society

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Credo / Anemo / Oliver Wakeman and Paul Manzi Herringthorpe Leisure Centre

4th November

They said it could never be done, they said we were crazy, but who are the CRS to listen to convention, especially when we've been a lone voice in the wilderness for so many years. This concert was the first (of hopefully many)

free concert for all of you guys who've been to a CRS gig this year to say 'thank you' and my god it was so good.

Oliver Wakeman made a welcome return for a short (and spectacular set) with superb vocalist/guitarist Paul Manzi (who thankfully had no pot plant related back injuries this time) performing a potted 'best of starting with Glimmer of Light from the Jabberwocky album. Understandably Oliver's latest album, the brilliant Mothers Ruin, dominated the set starting with the title track, Walk Away and then, for me the highlight of an outstanding set, the moving and beautiful If You're Leaving (I liked it so much I had to buy the album). We were also treated to the new one Busy Going Nowhere (which Oliver had finished arranging at about half three on the day). A blinding set and the large audience who were there quite early were very appreciative. Can't wait for Oliver and full band to return.

Next up were Anemo, a band making their CRS debut and fronted by the brilliant vocals of Hazelle Woodhurst and aided and abetted by sister Erika. They opened with just keyboard player Kingsley Sage and guitarist Matt Palmer on stage. The superb Filthy Figure Skater was one of the highlights. When the full band hit the stage, with Mike Kelly being one of the most laid back and innovative drummers I have ever seen, Anemo proceeded to blow the hell out of the audience, playing a set made up mostly of material from their stunning album Slowburn. Hazelle and Erika's vocals weaved in and out of the bands amazing musical dexterity and made an instant impression and have so many strengths, whether it's the vocals, Kingsley's keyboards, Matt's guitars or the lyrics on tracks like Johnny 5 and Kursk. This is a band that's going somewhere, and one that will return to the CRS next year. If these aren't best newcomers of the year at December's BOTY's then I'll eat my words and they've got to be in with a shot for best female vocalist and gig as well. I enjoyed them so much I bought the album!

Erika & Hazelle



Picture: Alistair Flynn



Carl Palmer hands over the CRS MD award for live performance to Hazelle Woodhurst and Kingsley Sage of Anemo while MD, MH looks on