

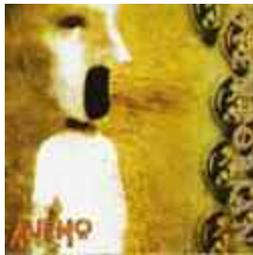
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Anemo

CD - Stentorian

Play 90 second soundbite of 'Music Box' @ 'CD quality'

Anemo's second album, 'Stentorian', clearly demonstrates the wonderfully diverse rockin'-pop style of this impressive outfit. Always safely within the bounds of pop sensibility but with their softly rockin' attack they push gently but not over-forcefully at the envelope and by doing so they widen their catchment whilst retaining commerciality.



Fronted by the powerful and well delivered vocals of Hazelle Woodhurst, Anemo are distinctive and their music quickly comes to you and becomes pretty persuasive. Anemo could so easily get carried away with 'big' scores and start to drown out the vocals but by thoughtful restraint and some careful mixing they ensure Woodhurst's voice is just sufficiently forward of the guitar and keys. I suppose you could compare Anemo to Eurhythmics because of the female vocal bias and their compelling, very saleable sound but I feel that Anemo are distinctly leaning more towards rock than they are pop. Comparisons or not, Anemo are a damn fine outfit in their own right; their songs are well structured, beautifully written and skilfully executed. Anemo show that detail matters and their penchant for getting it just right stands them in good stead and means they're a tough act to better. Anemo's professionalism shines through here, every 't' crosses and every 'i' dotted - nothing over-done and nothing left to chance. 'Stentorian' is over-flowin' with great songs performed with superb musicianship and great vision - from big, bold balladic through to gentle, lilting and subtle, Anemo show their range, flexibility and ability to make soft rock songs that're catchy as well as expressive.

'Stentorian' by Anemo is a maturely conceived and wonderfully crafted album; Anemo's ability to rock it up whilst retaining obvious commerciality is impressive and should see them doing well with this work. As I'm listening I'm looking for possible flaws, faults, areas of weakness - there are none as far as I can see - Anemo have been extremely thorough with this album; it's beautifully but not overly produced allowing each component part to ring out clearly and unhindered - no dynamic conflicts, no instrumental confusion or clashes - all is good, all is well - 'Stentorian' by Anemo is quality soft rock with bags of commerciality and masses of likeability. These 'guys' are damn good and deserve to reap major rewards for 'Stentorian'.