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ANEMO - STENTORIAN



Brighton band Anemo are back with the second album they have had released on American label City Canyons and those like me who loved 2005's 'Slowburn' will not be disappointed. This is more of the same. It's intelligent, mature and pulsing rock music.

The album kicks off with first single release 'Pray', a song that takes its inspiration from the experiences of foreign correspondents in the Middle East. It's a track that makes full use of the fact that the band has two female vocalists. The music is as powerful as the subject matter and it has some excellent female/female harmonies.

Second single and second track on the album 'MusicBox' features one of the hallmarks of the Anemo sound. A shimmering and cymbal heavy drum riff combined with a precisely matched guitar riff that gradually metamorphoses into a rocking chorus that leaves the blood pumping. It is worth noting that this pattern is similar to many of the tracks on 'Slowburn', hence the Anemo sound, but it is not repeated so often in this collection. The influences come from a wider background. 'Filthy Figure Skater' features a riff reminiscent of Southern Rock and 'Anyway' is a soaring, lilting track that could have been made by REM at their most elegiac.

Maybe it's just personal preference, but I find the last two tracks on the album 'Another Side To The Story' and 'Still' a little uncomfortable to listen to. They are both excellently written and produced songs, but deal with very personal subject matters that seem a little too confessional.

In the modern music industry it is possible that Anemo could easily be ignored. They don't tick any of the boxes that get you noticed. It's not edgy, it's not pedal-to-the-metal and it's not controversial. It's just perfectly crafted, perfectly powerful, old-school rock music. If there's no room for craftsmanship of this calibre then the business is in more serious trouble than any of us realise.

By Colin Gazeley – Ourobouros Podcast

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www.anemo.co.uk