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Escher's Enigma

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Escher's Enigma

Primary URL: <http://www.reverbnation.com/eschersenigma>

Escher's Enigma is Brian Miller (Guitar, Vocals, Midi) and Russ Miller (Bass). This father/son duo writes, arranges, performs, and produces original rock and pop music. Brian and Russ have a combined 40+ years of performing and recording experience. I hear no influences listed, such as Deep Purple/Rainbow and Black Sabbath. They're a lot more modern than that, but who better to draw from either way. The CD "For A Moment" provides introspective songwriting in an adult contemporary format, similar in feel to their debut EP "From Me To There." On this new one they paint a great picture of originals along with a surprising Guns 'N Roses cover, with a palpable sleeve artwork done by Alan Miller. Brian Miller has been writing, recording, and performing since the age of 13. In high school, Brian was the lead guitarist and songwriter for Semi Crazy, an arena rock originals band.

Russ Miller has been playing the bass professionally since the late 1970s. He has played in numerous bands headquartered in several locations. When playing in bands out of Long Island, Miller focused on original and cover songs in the classic rock genre.

This CD starts off with a melody sung over a light acoustic motif with *Should Have Known*, and it gets the lyrical point across but questions what direction to vocals might go in. This is a great tune but isn't without flaw, and does leave one intrigued for more. On track 2, *When Your Heart*, there is a fluffier approach to the music, but the vocals maintain a better consistency on this mellow cut with a big sounding chorus to help it win ears over and stay interested. It bounces along nicely, and you just know the rest won't be a disaster. Once the first two numbers pass you're convinced this is likely a great record, being more than satisfied thus far. Track 3 just opens the door for even more eclectic sounds, with the interestingly titled *Bonfire Rings and Heated Pools*. Track 4, *My Guitar* sports some nice acoustic strumming with a narrative style vocal that captivates the attention with ease. This is a killer tune attributed to the guitar itself, as the instrument gets a serenade along with its backing string work out, ending with a brief female falsetto which ends it nicely. The course stays well with the bouncy *Hide Behind The Text* which really hits home well on the subject of electronic devices and how out of hand they're becoming. It plays out in one-way conversation style, like how often the messages aren't read or hidden behind with another device or excuse in the lack of communication that texting can render in its occasional major loss of context (just to add to the advice already given). The vibe goes a little cold on *Life Of Solitude*, but it's a totally hypnotic change of pace that works perfectly at this point on the disc. Great stuff nevertheless, and lovely acoustic guitar work on this one. Most worth mentioning from here is the closing cover of *Sweet Child-O-Mine* that could be a lot worse in the attempt to convey it somehow more softly without destroying it in the process. All in all this cover track works but isn't exactly outstanding, but it's properly placed at the end. This is a great release but perhaps loses a point or two for being very short songs and playing out rather swiftly. I know I could use a minute or two tagged onto each track, especially concerning the guitar pieces, or perhaps just two or three more songs to make the difference it can.

CD BABY: <http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/eschersenigma3>

Larry Toering

Score: 7/10

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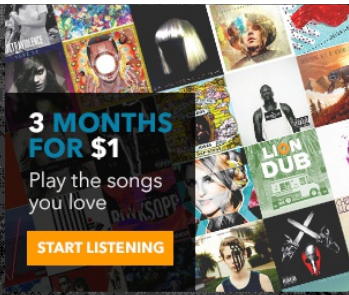
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