

## For a Moment by Escher's Enigma

10/10

For A Moment, the new album from Escher's Enigma, is a great effort from members Brian and Russ Miller. This duo has the unusual gimmick of being father and son, but they never try trading off their connection. The music is their focus from the first song to last and well presented with focus and great production. Earlier EP releases have left little doubt with a consensus of critics that Escher's Enigma are an artistic force, but producing a full length album presents different challenges. The duo responds to those challenges by producing a relaxed, deceptively simple work that exudes talent, taste, and imagination.

The opening two songs, "Should Have Known" and "When Your Heart", are easily the most commercial fare among the album's ten songs. You hear the best example here of the Miller's disparate experiences as music admirers merge into a distinctive style. The traditional influences the modern as light fills and other slight deviations colorfully twist the song's nominally conventional subject matter and structure. "Bonfire Rings and Heated Pools" will grab your attention with a surprising flourish of classical strings. Listening to the lyrics will make clear that this isn't an entirely happy song, by any measure, but it's quite gratifying to hear Escher's Enigma adopt a musical approach that doesn't require them beating the listener over the head with gloom. While there is no narrative to speak of, it bears mentioning how well vocalist Brian Miller embodies the characters inhabiting much of Escher's Enigma's material without ever rendering it melodramatically.

It isn't often that a longtime music listener in a variety of genres can say they've encountered something fresh. Escher's Enigma, however, proves to be quite talented at pouring old wine into new bottles with "Hide Behind The Text", a humorous and secretly melancholy track that features delightful wordplay in a pleasing acoustic-centered package. The following track "Life Of Solitude" has strong guitar work and wonderful production that accents the intimacy of the performance. Miller's nasal vocals soar with tremendous passion, but he's a canny singer who can pull back into gentleness faster than an eye blink. In keeping with the earlier songs, there's humor hidden in the gloom and Escher's Enigma frames it with thoughtful sophistication.

"Beauty In The Flames" has an irresistibly jaunty bounce. The commercial potential of a song like this is enormous because it is instantly memorable – the tinkling piano underpinning everything has a simple hook that brightens everything around it. Miller's playful vocal is important, but this is perhaps the most infectious musical moment on the album. Escher's Enigma closes things with a lilting cover of the Guns and Roses classic "Sweet Child O' Mine". Revamping the song in this way strengthens its inherent wistful qualities, an element lost in the original's music, and Miller's aching vocal is a natural fit for the song in this setting.

It's refreshing to hear music that is willing to engage, entertain, and provoke listeners. There is a tremendous amount of reflection on this album, introspective lyrical content and pensive arrangements, but the Millers are equally eager for their listeners to relate these songs to their own experiences. The music and presentation is intimate, but never insular.

Purchase Link: <https://itunes.apple.com/cy/artist/eschers-enigma/id691200893>

by Lydia Hillenburg