



Escher's Enigma For A Moment

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

After two well-received EP releases, For A Moment marks the first full-length album from New York based father-son duo Brian and Russ Miller. This ten-song collection defies easy genre categorization. Escher's Enigma covers a lot of stylistic ground but never lose focus on delivering compact songs that hold together as an overall work. Nothing sounds out of place here or overworked. There is an ease in this music born from confidence and you hear it in every song.

There are a wealth of influences at work in this collection, but chief among them is a complex pop sensibility that sets challenging lyrics within musical structures with proven appeal. The acoustic guitars powering the first song, "Should Have Known", are the lynchpin of the entire album. In this song, the decisive guitar playing drives things along at a respectable pace. "When Your Heart" has pacing ripped straight from AOR rock radio and the nimble musicality gives it considerable charm. "My Guitar" is, natch, a little more of an instrumental showcase than the typical track on For A Moment, but the song never loses sight of its priorities. This is a subtle song however – a closer listen to the lyrics reveal a hidden melancholy. The narrator places his affection in his guitar in lieu of other human contact. Stylishly done and very accomplished.

"Hide Behind The Text" has multiple meanings and it's good advice to give this track a few passes before you think you understand it completely. There is a great deal of verbal ingenuity here. As talented as the Millers are musically, they aren't literary slouches either. The fusion of lyric with music is ideal and, with the added bonus of some wry humor, it rates as the most well rounded track on the album. The rolling guitar motif that opens "Life of Solitude" has a lot of sensitivity and the gradual layering of other instruments comes with a light, deft touch. A particular highlight is the electric guitar that adds a number of colorful fills helping to further flesh out the song.

The brief "Bixby Canyon Bridge" is another high point on the album that excels on its specific details and a beautifully understated vocal. The singing pays tremendous attention to its phrasing and recalls a young James Taylor with its clear, resonate emotional quality. It's hard not to love how, midway through the song, the song opens up further with the introduction of orchestral elements and inventive bass playing. The album's final tune, a surprising cover of Guns and Roses' late 80's hard rock anthem "Sweet Child O' Mine", works because it isn't reverential for even a note. The Millers deconstruct the song, slow it down, and re-present it as a contemplative acoustic ballad rather than framing it with the sonic bluster we might expect.

If someone doubted the presence of creative and brave musicians in this era, Escher's Enigma exists as a strong rebuke to that fear. This is a band unafraid to dip into popular music, but it produces results no one will confuse with this week's Top 40 artist of the moment. The world needs more duos, power trios, and full bands like Escher's Enigma. For A Moment is a reminder of what music can still be, not what we have lost.

10/10 Stars

i-TUNES: <https://itunes.apple.com/cy/artist/eschers-enigma/id691200893>

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