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Escher's Engima For A Moment

 Posted by Mr. Blackwell on Mar 11, 2015 in [Reviews](#) | [Comments Off](#)


Escher's Engima For A Moment

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

In the newest album from Escher's Engima, "For a Moment," the father and son team of Russ and Brian Miller continue on in the tradition of the family business as they release their first full-length CD after producing two EP's. With over 40 years of experience in the family vault, Brian has worked in a handful of New York area bands that helped prepare him for the arena rock debut of Escher's Engima with his father, a bassist in the classic and hard rock genre since the 1970s.

It's too facile to write off "For a Moment" as a continuation of the fun sound previously established in their earlier EPs. For starters, most tracks are dialed in, not the stadium shaking arena rock that the Millers got their start in. There's a sense of intimacy, a cozy studio recording that's light and fun. In "Hide Behind the Text," the titular line is a bit of a play on what a listener might initially interpret 'text' to mean. This lyrical wordplay and erratic, yet spot-on vocal delivery give a sense of friskiness to the track. Russ's classic rock is absent, and past comparisons to bands like R.E.M., Crash Test Dummies and Paul Simon are as relevant as ever.

If you find yourself distinctly picturing Brian's vocals as coming from Weird Al Yankovic's mouth, don't be alarmed. With such a jaunty and playful approach to not only music, but also a one-man vaudeville act including magic, comedy and mind-reading, it is apparent that the father/son duo isn't afraid to have a good time. That isn't to say that both seasoned performers shy away from a more contemplative sound. Enigma's rendition of Death Cab for Cutie's "Bixby Canyon Bridge" is close enough to the original so as not to anger fans, but it's a Death Cab that might've enjoyed playing outside a bit more as kids; a version of Death Cab that uses melodic midi production and doesn't whisper so softly.

Escher's Engima covers multiple songs on "For a Moment," and listeners may wonder why such a short album from such an established group is so dependent upon other's work. Sure, the Death Cab cover brings the finely-aged sound into a more recent decade, but to venture backward with a cover of Guns n' Roses' "Sweet Child O' Mine" may seem a bit self-indulgent. To sound like REO Speedwagon or R.E.M. should be enough of a visitation to the past, but to devote a large portion of a debut album to covers is disappointing, especially against such an impressive backdrop of experience and strong songwriting.

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What Escher's Enigma excels in is the same thing that comes from experience: a mastery of one's diligence. One can assume that the sound we're hearing is exactly what was anticipated by the artists. Whether the relevance of that sound is still marketable, and whether the midi productions are as true to the instrumental purity as the instruments themselves is up to the listener's discretion. I, for one, enjoy the harkening back to a sound from a not so distant past.

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

8/10 Stars.

Kurt Christian

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