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When most people think of families forming bands, it's usually siblings who are in the spotlight. The relationships can be symbiotic (Stone Temple Pilots' DeLeo Brothers) or nuclear (Oasis and the mad Gallaghers). Hailing from New York and Connecticut respectively, Russ Miller (bass) and Brian Miller (vocals, guitar, keys and drum programming) comprise a rare father/son duo called Escher's Enigma. The twosome has released two EPs dating back to 2013, and *For a Moment* is their first feature length outing. Composed of eight original tunes and two covers, the music runs the gauntlet from punchy, mainly acoustic rock to laid-back singer/songwriter fare. They do a great job of keeping the compositions lean and slanted in favor of a telepathic, kinetically charged thrust as so effortlessly displayed on opener, "Should Have Known." Limber bass licks walk a tight-rope of precarious, teetering acoustics backed by digital drums that sound like the real thing. Brian's got a great voice that contorts itself up and down his range while utilizing plenty of variation in delivery and tone. The deal sealer is the plugged in guitar leads which sizzle like tar on July blacktop. It injects just the right amount of adrenaline into the song without blowing things out of proportion.

You can hear the familial connectivity on the magnetic single, "When Your Heart." The instrumentation exerts its power over gravity by pulling

you right into the trading acoustic/electric hooks. Russ and Brian not only play with each other, but they are mindful of when to break off of each other as well. Russ will step into the limelight, engrave extra blues-y notes into the melody and lock back into Brian's guitar groove like a safe combination clicking into place. Then just as quickly as father returns to the pocket, son jumps into action with an ear-catching vocal phrasing or instrumental lick of his own. Heavenly keyboards and syncopated beats alter the atmosphere a bit during, "Bonfire Rings and Heated Pools." Rocks riffs come in later, but an interesting indie influence permeates a tale of fondly remembering someone in life who wandered down the wrong side of the tracks into an oncoming train.

"My Guitar" is an acoustic jam double-dipped in blues detailing a musician's love affair with the track's titular instrument. Some emotive vocal fireworks help the lyrics hit the bull's eye with a dedicated aim, never falling into the tropes of the tearful 90s emo flood. One of the duo's many strengths is that they keep the songwriting fresh from start to finish. The scale is never tipped too far towards one genre, culminating in a faithful redux of Guns N' Roses' megahit "Sweet Child O' Mine." They manage to stay true the source version while throwing some of their own colors into the palette.

Escher's Enigma really make you want to embrace the social spirit and gather your loved ones for a long overdue gathering. Lyrically and musically, everything maintains a "half full" outlook towards the world which is refreshing in a society too content to just dwell on the negative. The playing, writing and delivery of these songs is brimming with vim and vigor. For a Moment is perfect listening for shedding the winter cold and making the passage into spring.

8/10 Stars

Jay Snyder



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