



Review by: Rok Podgrajšek

Year: 2012

Produced by: Larry King

Label: Frontiers Records

Musicians:

Vocals: Larry King

Keyboards: John Blasucci

Guitars: Michael Thompson, Gery Johnson,
Chris Siebold, Craig Bauer

Drums: Khari Parker, Vinnie Colaiuta, Tom Hipskind

Bass: Richard Patterson, Leland Sklar,
Dave Hildebrand, Steven Rodby

Larry King has been in the entertainment industry in one form or another since he was a child. He worked as an actor, but mostly he has been making his daily bread by writing music. He's pretty much been everything and done it all. He has been a songwriter, producer, band leader and has worked with some of the biggest names in the industry. Joining forces with jazz musician John Blasucci, King is also a member of Soleil Moon, with which he released a new album, called On the Way to Everything.

Frontiers are known for their excellent melodic rock, so some might be expecting a typical slick AOR type of affair. Although melodic rock is the order of the day, Soleil Moon squeeze so much more into the song-writing – from blues, hard rock, soul, funk, jazz and towards the end of the album even theatrical rock (bonus track), if that term is even appropriate. All the way through the guys are constantly changing pace, from upbeat to slow, acoustic, rocking, soulful,... you name it. The first real surprise happens with Blackbird, a Beatles cover and after that the surprises aren't surprises any more, you expect the unexpected. Burn offers a big energy boost and is a real gold nugget of instrumental hard rock. But there's no time for wishing for more of the same, as they never stop amazing you with whatever they're doing. Rockers like Here I am are nicely contrasted by soft ballads (Goodnight Irene is one such example). With the three bonus tracks we also step into the territory of theatrical or occasionally even progressive rock, with grandiose arrangements full of big choruses and back-up singers. With the bonus tracks, you get about 60 minutes of music, but they go by in a heartbeat.

The album is marked by a unique vision on music. Just about every song is in a different style, yet the album maintains a sense of cohesion and unity all the way through. The linking element is melodic rock, which enriches every song, whether it is blues, hard rock, soul, pop or theatrical rock. King is also an intelligent lyricist, with a profound simplicity to his lyrics at every step of the way. On the Way to Everything really is on the way to just about everything you could imagine musically, though I'm sure the guys have a few more tricks up their sleeves for their future albums. This is a really highly recommended album, regardless of what genre you like. It really is that good.

9.5 out of 10.