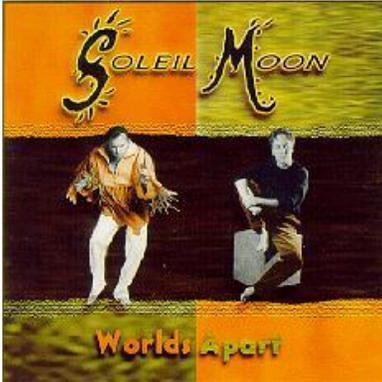


GLORYDAZE Music

Soleil Moon - Worlds Apart



SOLEIL MOON - WORLDS APART (MFO RECORDS)

Larry King - vocals
John Blasucci - keyboards, piano
Michael Thompson - guitars
Paul Jackson Jnr - guitars
Ricky Petersen - organ
Warren Hill - saxophones
Lenny Castro - percussion
Kenny Aranoff - drums
London Symphony Orchestra

Background

West Coast fans will have cause for celebration with the release of Swedish act **Work Of Art**'s new album. However, I reckon I've found something much more rewarding - and it's certainly a collection of tunes that missed my radar back in 2000 when the thing was originally released. The duo of Larry King (no, not that one!) and John Blasucci joined forces back then to create the duo called Soleil Moon. From different musical backgrounds, the pair have created a simply beautiful collection of tunes that fit into the West Coast genre like hand to glove. From Chicago, John and Larry have enlisted some high-powered assistance to accompany them on 'Worlds Apart', including **Michael Thompson**, **Kenny Aranoff** and (believe or not) the London Symphony Orchestra. As their bio points out: 'We are completely and utterly opposite, but together we created this sophisticated form of contemporary music.' Larry is from rock/pop side of the fence, while John was bought up on a diet of jazz. 'Worlds Apart' was a recent discovery for me after reading a review of it on the melodic.net website (hi Ola, hi Par!), so I took a punt and dispatched my credit card over to CD Baby for a copy of the album. What a great investment!

The Songs

As far as genre's go, Soleil Moon could fit into numerous. Smooth jazz would be one. West Coast another. 80's pop is a good fit too. By now, you would have gathered it crosses all of them comfortably. The production on 'Worlds Apart' is utterly first class, there is a depth to it that disappears out of sight, the soul and emotion displayed on all the songs is a connection very few musicians (let alone a duo) can expect to achieve in a lifetime.

A smooth start is guaranteed with '**Willingly**'. It opens the innings along a smooth jazz/AC/vocal path. The Japanese would probably call this West Coast. Take your pick, it's rather nice.

'**Never Say Goodbye**' heads into Mark Spiro territory. Michael Thompson's distinctive guitar tone and style drives this track along a rock-based theme.

'*Ohio*' has a dramatic and thematic approach to it. A vocal/piano introduction fuels the fire for an upbeat surge by chorus time, but by songs end we've moved totally into a bombastic symphonic rock crescendo with lead guitar competing with the Orchestra for musical dominance.

For me, the song of the album is the utterly beautiful '*Warm Summer Rain*'. The lyrics of the song are so heartfelt, you'd be reaching for the Kleenex before long. The story is about a man struggling to cope with the arrival of his new born baby while simultaneously grieving for his lost wife. Incredible depth to this one, while the delicate piano work touches all the right places.

Another highlight is the smooth West Coast of the title track '*Worlds Apart*', a track very similar to the likes of Kevin McCourt or Rod McInnes. The chorus is an absolute winner on this one.

'*I'd Die For You*' is another of the powerful but emotive song statements from the duo. Again, restrained intro and verses falls into a chasm of musical bombast by bridge/solo time in the vein of Meatloaf, and it continues right through to its conclusion with orchestra and lead guitars once again battling for supremacy.

'*You And Me*' is a pop ballad with huge symphonic qualities to it. Having the London Symphony Orchestra as your backing band is an impressive feat don't you think?

'*Calling On The World*' has a Michael Sembello feel to it, a provocative world theme aimed at stamping out racism.

'*I Need You Close To Me*' is a classy pop/jazz excursion, with gospel like backing and fiery saxophone playing. Imagine if you will.. Mark Williamson and Kenny G hooking up for a studio session.

The tenderness exhibited on the piano duet '*Love Me Like You Used To*' is one reserved for the late night headphones, though the lyrics are sad, it's best not to have the spouse around when listening to it.. lol!

The album finishes with the luscious piano based instrumental '*What Are You Dreaming*'.. a perfect closer to a near perfect album.

URL: www.soleilmoonband.com