

Review:

Camera Obscura | Steve Adams

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<http://www.hamanaka.com/pilgrim2/progmetal/apage.htm#steveadams>

3Ears seems to have been known among U.K. prog masters Camel fans and Camel-related enthusiastic music lovers. Due to my lack of studying U.K. prog rock scene in general, I admit I have never heard of Steve Adams previously (except for my experience about listening to Camel's classic "Mirage" album back then). By courtesy of 3Ears Records president, Mr. Roy Clay, I have just recently been getting familiar with an England-prog label called 3Ears releasing fine prog rock albums including Camel's all classic albums, Colin Bass, and Pete Bardens Mirage.

Ok, let's go back to the review of Steve Adams. "Camera Obscura" album is the latest album of Steve Adams. According to the info on 3Ears, Steve Adams is the guitarist for Pete Bardens Band and Mirage. I checked out his music on Camera Obscura before reading the info about him, so I was wondering who Steve Adams is. I thought he must have been one of a great new discoveries. After reading the info about Steve, now I come to realize that he is a seasoned skilled musician in the field of U.K. prog and symphonic rock.

Overall, I am amazed by Steve's incredible musical works and his guitar technique with his talented backing fellow musicians. In the beginning of my listening session about Camera Obscura, I thought that his musical direction would be in the realm of neo-prog vein. But my immediate assumption was totally wrong. Camera Obscura covers diverse music zones, such as rock, blues, prog, pop, and jazz. Every track makes me wow and enjoyable feeling, while listening to the album. His guitar solos and tones are very tasty and emotional. Somehow, his playing style appeals to the fans of Steve Hackett and Eric Johnson. His musical style is totally different from what I consider guitar instrumental music is like Shrapnel shred school, Lion Music artists, Bluesy, and guitar school, etc in general. In other words, his music is very fresh and unique in my opinion.

His music would be categorized under the file of guitar instrumentals in the shelf, but his music is more than that. I think his roots of music is progressive rock related, but the sounds on Camera Obscura are really original and very well-made. If you are into different types of music and cross-breeding/mixed with the elements of prog, you'll find great enjoyment. In my honest opinion, what he has displayed with his colleague musicians sounds different from what I have imagined. Otherwise, this is

not stereo-typed music at all, so highly recommended to the fans of instrumental music who are looking at different angles.