

Metal Only

Das einzig WAHRE Metalradio im Netz!

Band: Freddy and the Phantoms (DK)

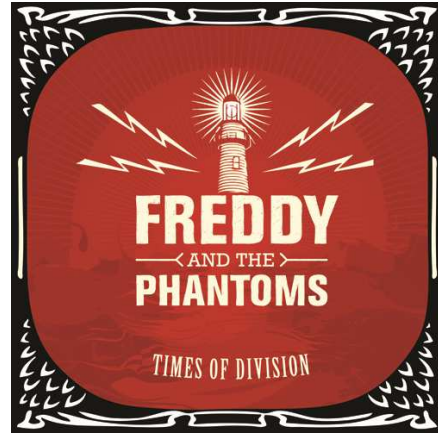
Genre: Psychedelic Blues Rock

Label: Target Group

Albumtitle: Times of Division

Duration: 33:20

Releasedate: 26.01.15



It is surprising how many bands revive again the sound of the 60s and 70s at present. The ones like Blue Pills, Rival Sons or Zodiac have success with it and the others rather not. The Danish band Freddy and the Phantoms is also dedicated to this style and likes to show us with its third album "Times of Division" that it's also master of it.

Already the first song, at the same time albumtitle, is a pleasure for the ear and shows the direction of the album. The combo around Frederik Schnoor goes to showing us their work uncomplicated and without lots of fancy extras. It is groovy and doesn't take long until one taps the feet with the rhythm. Such music must went straight to the bones and the guys succeed without moving a muscle. If this fires nearly the same on stage, then hallelujah! What a pity the album duration is rather short.

The vocals of Frederik Schnoor are harmonious and fit perfectly to the intended style. He has a enjoyable distorted voice as if he would sing into an old and cheap micro packing up in the high tones. But as it is not overplayed, it is a pleasure and breathes life into the sound. His voice is in tune with the other instruments. Only the slower songs could have been more in it. Frederik sounds bored in some places.

One must say in general that the mid-tone sound complement each other perfectly. None of the instruments dominate but rather call the others in the appropriate parts. The musicianship is very solid. A thick praise to Anders Haahr who gives the final touch to the band with his organ sound.

Nowadays it is not enough to imitate the sound of a decade only. It is relatively simple and it can be assisted in the studio. Far more important is the style of playing and the arrangements because they give the relevant authenticity of the style to the music. "Time of Division" is not overloaded with nonessential arrangements. Witty playfulness is the trump card here because one hears that the guys have a lot of fun. Thus the harp in "Borderline Blues" and the pedalsteel guitar in "Skinning Ship" stand out positively and give the music their own atmosphere. Above all, the latter gets a pleasant note of country music. One nearly feels the desolation and like to get rid of the frustration with a bourbon. Very well done!

Conclusion:

Freddy and the Phantoms masters this challenge and delivers a strong album. Most songs burst promptly into flames, but this is not enough to be a masterpiece of music. The voice of Frederik Schnoor flattens in quiet moments and can not resist the relation with other alternates of this genre. Moreover, the album is quite short with a duration of 33:20. Nevertheless, it is a strong album that fans should have!

Rating 7,5/10

Recommendations: Borderline Blues, Sinking Ship, No One To Blame

Weblink: <http://www.freddyandthephantoms.com> , <https://www.facebook.com/freddyphan>

Lineup:

Frederik Schnoor - Lead Vocals/Guitar/Harp

Morten Rahm – Guitars

Rune Hansen – Drums/Backing Vocals

Mads Wilken – Bass/Backing Vocals

Anders Haahr – Organ/Backing Vocals

Tracklist:

01. Times Of Division

02. Borderline Blues

03. On The Sidewalk

04. Down Down Down

05. In The Attic

06. No One To Blame

07. Storm On The Riverside

08. No Time

09. Sinking Ship

10. Morning Sun

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