

Metal Only

Das einzig WAHRE Metalradio im Netz!

Band: Black Swamp Water (DK)

Genre: Hard Rock

Label: Mighty Music

Albumtitle: Chapter One

Duration: 49:25

Releasedate: 26.08.2016



A saddened atmosphere, while the rain is falling down. No hope, no escape, no faith in the good. Melancholy keeps time and spreads with all its severity. It does not quite sound like peace, joy and happiness, I have to admit, but it is exactly what is conveyed by the eponymous song "Black Swamp Water" of the Danish bands' debut album. And it is a good thing too and should not be different.

Riffs that are really hefty and powerful for Hard Rock do not leave any doubt that their roots can be found in the early metal. And the song "Black Swamp Water" conveys exactly this almost perfectly. It starts melancholic and gloomy, even though it contains effects in singing which need getting used to, in my opinion. The middle part discharges itself into double base and guitar riffs that smilingly reminds of Black Sabbath and Ozzy Osbourne. But Black Swamp Water also know how to play fast, dirty and wild, like the terrific opening song "Leave Nothing Behind" demonstrates. With this song they use siren sounds of an arriving squadron as a sound layer. Obviously these guys seems to have a soft spot for authentic sound snippets.

The curious singing effects of singer Bjørn Bølling Nyholm can be forgiven fast, because by the second song "Harmless" one gets addicted to his voice and it is really enjoyable that he steps on the gas when he should but restrains himself when it is necessary. Thus, the songs can develop better and gets a comfortable and balanced atmosphere.

In general, the performance of every musician is above average. In particular I have to praise drummer Kim Langkjær Jensen. He splendidly knows how to work on the fine line between Groove and giving it all. Thus, dynamic is created! It pleases to focus on it and to listen. Especially the Southern States hymn "Life Is Pain" can benefit by this, because automatically the whole ensemble gives a different impression. And a slide guitar has harmed never before.

What particularly attracts attention is the length of the songs. Above or close to five minutes is quite rare within the Hard Rock genre. Even if "Interlude", the acoustic introduction to "Into The Fire", emerges as a temporal drop of bitterness, it is not an indicator for a lack of quality. While some bands try to present a 90-seconds engine noise as a complete song, this track really can arouse interest. Like a carpet it paves the way, but unfortunately what follows cannot convince. It is a great pity, because somehow "Into The Fire" leaves the listener unsatisfied.

Even if I emphasized the performance on the drums, one of the most beautiful highlights is the calm song "Run", which only focus on the absolute minimum. Guitar, vocals and strings. A nice change, if one thinks of the power spread by the album. Moreover, the production is comfortably straight and balanced. It is modern standard, but too often underestimated.

Conclusion:

The rain has seeped away, the sirens have become silent, and the album has ended. Emptiness spreads. The power spread by the album leaves a vacuum. Of course it is no masterpiece, the first chapter. But it is a good debut, a really good one. Especially because it tries to withdraw from the mainstream but at the same time knows its roots. There is room for improvement, and it would be surprising if not. This will be the task of the sequel, but until then this chapter will spread its power some more times. The sirens ring again...

Rating 8/10

Recommendations: Black Swamp Water, Leave Nothing Behind, Run

Weblink: <http://www.facebook.com/BlackSwampWater>

Lineup:

Bjørn Bølling Nyholm - Vocals
Jan Geert – Guitars
Martin Lykke Hansen – Guitars
Jeppe Birch Friis – Bass
Kim Langkjær Jensen - Drums

Tracklist:

01. Leave Nothing Behind
02. Harmless
03. World On Fire
04. Interlude
05. Into The Fire
06. Black Swamp Water
07. Life Is Pain
08. The Only Road
09. Efuckingnough
10. Run
11. Let It Go

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