

I have a habit of writing reviews of music that's easy to take the p\*ss out of. So I thought I'd challenge myself by reviewing one of my most listened to CDs of all time. I am referring to 'Portamento', by The Drums. They're a band you may have heard on various adverts. I think they featured on an old bank commercial, in fact. As far as I remember it used the lyrics 'and the days go by and I never needed you'. I'm not sure what the company was trying to say. Still though, at least they didn't make use of the other words of the album 'I need a doctor. You know I love ya, but I wanna kill ya'. Personally, I would have used the words 'I want to buy you something, but I don't have any money.' Well maybe they would be better for a loan advert. Anyway, here goes...

I have to give the band credit: The simple bass and guitar parts that are very often mere single note lines really work. In theory the music should sound like it's written by either a very independent though selfish toddler; a toddler in serious need of therapy or a kind hearted toddler. (I'm referring to those lyrics again, respectively). Instead however, all the instruments and vocal parts go together beautifully - respectively. (I'm being respectful, I mean. Because I'm nice). Perhaps surprisingly, the drums on this release are pretty damn basic. Why call a band 'The Drums' if the percussion is the least interesting part of the sound? As hinted at earlier with the choice of material in the bank promotion, the world simply does not make sense.

As this indie (far from metal!) album was bought for me by my brother on my birthday, (the day of heightened emotions and enthusiasm) it inspired me to broaden my horizons, in the hope of finding other non-metal albums that I really love. Unfortunately such efforts have often been fruitless (I have some pretty weird stuff I'm never going to listen to, such as flamenco music) but to be fair, I have discovered some pretty cool stuff, too. Such as the ambiguous Jimmy Eat World. Are they emo, alternative rock, power pop or pop punk? Make up your mind quickly so I know how to dress. You can't be emo, rocker and punk at the same time, right? It's like putting mustard and cucumbers on ice cream. Ok, ok, I admit those types of music actually have similar fashion styles; again I'm trying to be funny. But how the hell do you explain the fashion of pirate metal or even folk metal? I for one have never seen it. Not down my way, anyway. I want to, though - chains, denim and parrots or chains, denim and medieval trousers/shirts!! :S

On the subject of strange choices of clothes, who's that weird guy on my street who dresses up as a wizard? I feel bad for him. All he's trying to do is express himself, but there's no Harry Potter Metal-Core or whatever out there, meaning he sticks out. 'If only there were more people like me' I'm sure he thinks. However, as metal is becoming saturated with every fusion of styles imaginable, I'm sure it's only a matter of time before the eccentric man in question will be thought of as 'before his time' and even trendy. When that time comes, I will join him as I occasionally got called 'Harry Potter' in school, myself. Why? Because I wear glasses. Everyone who wears glasses looks like Harry Potter. Which is good for me I suppose, if I want to go unnoticed in the extreme, which does sound like fun. Especially if you're a prankster.

Oh yeah, 'Portamento'. I give it 8 out of 10. 'But you said it's one of your most listened to albums ever...' Yep. Still though, deep down I know its songs are kind of samey. I can't make a full paragraph about things sounding the same can I? I could copy those last few sentences over and over to prove a point, but that would be

