

You've just learnt that Hum will eventually be releasing their first album in flippin' ages and you're impatient to hear what they've come up with. Not to worry, to pass the time you can check out the singer's side project 'Centaur' and their only album 'In Streams'. Does it sound like Hum? Well unsurprisingly the singer sounds the same, but the overall feel of music is pretty familiar too. Which is good. But is the material of the same quality? Na. To be fair, Hum's album 'You'd Prefer an Astronaut' is perfect and their follow up 'Downwards is Heavenwards' is better according to Allmusic.com, making it that very rare of things - better than perfect. Therefore, you'd be expecting a bit much from the less well known band if you're wanting songs as classic as 'Stars' or whatever.

Rather, you get tunes such as 'Strangers On 5'. (I don't know what that means). I originally misheard its lyrics as 'strangers on fire'. As the song is delivered with such calmness, I was thinking to myself, 'wow. That singer really is coldhearted', but then I did some research and was feeling a little foolish. But I along with everyone else will prefer the musicians not to be completely psycho I'm sure. In the end, feeling a bit dumb for a bit isn't so bad. Rather than being demented. You also get the songs 'Wait For The Sun', 'Placencia' (which is apparently a beach resort), 'Fields' and 'In Streams'. Without even listening to the music, you can rightly assume they're pretty chill, too. You still get plenty of distorted power chords, but if someone (could be anyone) blasted them brutally loud out his car, you would never suspect he had mental problems. THAT'S chill.

Unfortunately, this album is rather unknown and hard to get hold of. On the other hand, as it's rare, it is therefore good. That's just how it works. I feel a heightened, smug sense of pride and satisfaction because I own this release. Ok, ok, ok, the 'obscure = awesome' theory isn't always correct. Yngwie Malmsteen's latest blues/shred 'effort' 'Blue Lightning' sucks. It will only end up being rare because let's face it; why would ANYONE want to buy it? Personally, I've never heard of a B.B. King fan who appreciates Malm's trademark endless sped up guitar scales. Blues is a genre all about feeling, and Yng is notorious for having none whatsoever 99% of the time. So yeah. The weird as hell BL is an exception.

But about 'In Streams'! Even more unfortunately this time around, the music is kind of repetitive at times. Not as repetitive as me going on about crazy people/insanity in general (that's kind of my niche), but a little more variety would be more than welcome. Basically the music on the whole is kinda so-so. Or maybe just a tiny bit better than that. Still though, 'a little better than average' is only a phrase to brag about if you're writing truly sophisticated music. I studied film music at university, and let me tell you, it's more complicated than utilising a few chords over and over. If someone told me I was average at writing that stuff, I'd spend my whole life composing it. Even though I don't REALLY like the genre. Which is a bit weird, isn't it?

Okey dokey! In this review, you've learnt that In Streams is nice and relaxed but nothing too special. You've also learnt my education is f***ing weird, and to this day I'm not 100% sure why I went down that road, but everyone gets told 'think outside the box', right? Maybe that's what Centaur should have done, as their music is repetitive. Now I'm repeating myself. Annoying, isn't it? The band isn't at all irritating, (other than when they use a very unnecessarily long chord at the end of the album).

They just need to put more effort in to their work, that's all. What score should I give it? Hm. 6 out of 10 sounds harsh, 7 sounds too favourable. So with a great maths mind I give it a 6.5! Bye!