

ECLIPTICA: "The Awakening" 5

Indie 2007

Review by Alan Holloway, alan@rockunited.com

9th June 2007

Ecliptica are a six piece metal band from Germany (or perhaps Austria) led by ex Drunken Angels guitarist Markus Winkler. That's about the extent of my knowledge, I'm afraid, so lets get on with the review.

Ecliptica play what can loosely be described as symphonic metal, and seem to be trying to come from the same place as the likes of Nightwish. However, there's not nearly as much dramatic pap going on, although they do have a good go at times. Some of the songs are very well crafted and mix theatrical pomp with some galloping guitar. However, it seems that at times they have been caught out by a low budget, as the production doesn't do their ambitions justice.

Vocals on the album (or is it a mini-album?) are shared by Thomas Tieber and Evelyn Pieler, with Tieber coming accross like Geoff Tate at times. Well, if Geoff Tate had a German accent, anyway. Pieler has a pleasant voice that can wrap itself nicely around some tricky notes, although again you feel that the production stops her sounding at her best.

"The Awakening" is quite ambitious, and that is perhaps where it falls down. There are some good hooks and writing on show, but it doesn't grab you like it should. Could do better, then, and probably will. One to watch.
<http://www.ecliptica.at/>