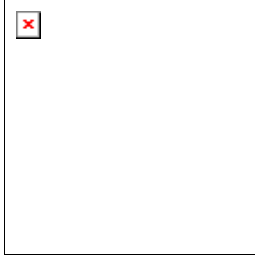


Ecliptica - Impetus

Self-financed

file under Heavy / Power metal



Wilco: Austria's metal scene is not known to be the most vivid in the world, but the number of talented metal acts is rising. Acts like Abigor, Serenity, Edenbridge, Hollenthon, Summoning, Pungent Stench, Visions Of Atlantis and of course Belphegor are getting more popular these days because of the high quality music they perform. And the Napalm label is getting to become more an important label with some quite unique international acts.

From Tulln (near Vienna) comes Ecliptica with 'Impetus', trying to give the rising Austrian metal scene an extra boost. Their attempt is certainly not a complete failure. With six members the band includes two vocalists in charge of the act's powermetal with some progressive elements. Elisabeth Fangmeyer is not really suited for this job. Her voice is too limited and sometimes she tends to sing out of key. It never gets really terrible, but it doesn't get perfect either. Thomas Tieber sounds a lot less unstable and has more power in his voice. This is shown best in the passages with high notes and where he needs to give it his all. When singing more easily, his voice sometimes tends to verge on the border of nagging. The female presence does not automatically entail we are dealing with a Nightwish of Edenbridge clone. The sound of this band is more mellow and there is not a single sense of gothic. The other band members do not perform in an exceptional manner, but what they do they do well. They never take the path of least resistance, that is something I like.

The album's sound is very OK, but a bit too thin, especially the guitars could have been given more power. The music on the album is quite ok, with some parts that actually grab your attention. On the other hand, some other songs are not really worth listening again. 'My Paradise', 'Land Of Silence' 'Carry On' and 'Old Man's Memories' are the most interesting songs, whereas 'Watching You' and 'Jester In The Ballroom' are merely a waste of sound. The music never gets heavy, in my opinion it stays too 'clean' and too neat. According to the biography his band is very unique and sets new standards for the albums to come. Well, that is 'slightly' exaggerated, but the use of some 80s elements adds some uniqueness to the sound.

So, this album is not essential, but has its shiny parts. I think the band needs to mature, so let's give them one or two opportunities and see what they will do next, because there is hope.



Rating: 70/100 (details)

<http://www.ecliptica.at>