

FM - City Limits EP

Room Thirteen Review by Paul Chesworth



If you're an FM fan, then the last 3 years has been a pretty good time to be one (an FM fan). The band has probably been as prolific in this period as they ever have been. Headlining Firefest twice after coming out of the wilderness of 15 yrs, a live DVD (Back In The Saddle), the 'Vintage and Rare' CD, Wildside EP, Metropolis album in 2010, a late addition to the main stage at Donington, and now hot on the heels of the latest leg of their UK tour (in which they produced the best gigs I've ever seen them do) comes yet another EP, entitled 'City Limits'. Whoever's in charge of art layout for the band is heavily influenced by the Eagles Hotel California, as much as the back cover for Metropolis was a tribute to a Bon Jovi album cover

I remember in the good, no great days of vinyl, when an EP meant 3, or 4 tracks. Even 5 if you were really, really lucky. Not ones to scrimp on quality, this release contains no less than 9 tracks. Jesus, this is better value than other bands' albums that have been peddled around lately.

It includes two versions of 'Bring Back Yesterday', a radio edit version, and a lengthened DJ Juppy treated version for you metal rave enthusiasts out there - why do a 4-min song when it can be 7 minutes, excellent!

We also get a brand new track "Start It Up", which will not be on the next album, a west coast/AOR nugget in style that only FM can produce. Also on the EP is a wildly different slowed down version of 'That Girl'. Think of a cross between 'Soul Provider' era Michael Bolton (full of ooh hoooo's) singing for Hellsongs and that's pretty much it. A very different approach to the original, very laid back, very cool.

The rest is made up with five live tracks taken from gigs at Glasgow and Cardiff all tracks taken from Metropolis. All are definite highlights as they prove the band is in its best shape in years. A certain Mr Overland singing his arse off, coupled with the more modernistic guitar style of Jim Kirkpatrick, and the triple rhythm/keyboard finesse of Messrs Jupp, Goldsworthy and Davis, all makes for one hell of a VFM (value for money, not Valuable FM) E.P. All come over better as live tracks, with excellent harmonies, great guitar solos and the FM choir in tow.

Enjoy them whilst we have them back in the saddle. If you missed out on the recent tour I implore you to catch them at either their now legendary and renewed Xmas gig at O2 Academy Islington and at Hard Rock Hell at Prestatyn early December.

http://www.roomthirteen.com/cd_reviews/11399/FM__City_Limits_EP.html