Review of "Bloody Wing" from MusicEmissions

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Artist: Red Black Red Album: Bloody Wing

Label:

Year of Release: 2016 ME Rating: ★★★☆

Reviewed by: madelainej on 2016-03-31



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and fading into calmness once more. "Waves of Gold" opens with acoustic guitar and vocals and sounds like familiar territory, however, the synth creeps in, and we are transported from one genre to another more electronic dimension.

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Red Black Red's album Bloody Wing is succinct, tight and beautifully executed. They have successfully merged rock and electronic. They are gritty and raw while also entering into the contemporary and popular music scene. This is an album you can't ignore when it's being played. It is definitely not background music with the pounding electronics in the background while the guitar riffs stunning solos and the vocals are the right mix between tailored melody and grating gruffness. The subtle mix with piano brings a light optimism to the music, typically not found in music of this kind but also infuses a refreshing edge to the songs.

I do not recommend this album for the faint of heart due to its intense and dark nature. However, for those seeking a haunting well put together album that is a hybrid of genres and with excellent musicianship, Bloody Wing is the album to try. The layering of instruments is expertly executed and fits together in an intricate web of competing melodies and varying rhythm patterns. The lyrics have metrical strength and compliment the melody of the instruments.

The album opens with "The Middle," which commences with a drum machine before building to a climax with guitar, overlaid vocals, and synth. This song whips the listener into a frenzy, preparing them for the next track, "Precious Bones." This song, begins with a fast paced rhythm section, while the vocals sound almost lazy by comparison, crooning over the drums and guitar. But once the chorus is reached, the vocals sync with the rhythm becoming just as driving. Each track sets the listener up for the next, "Gasoline" takes it down a few notches and while maintaining the same amount of intensity, it is slower and more melodic. The guitar

takes centre stage carrying the melody, complimented by synth, drum machine while the vocals break your heart singing of "burning twilight". However, the use of cowbell in this song, may be a bit much and brings an element of comedy which is out of place for this song but the guitar solo at the conclusion of this track makes up for it. "Gasoline" allows the listener to take a much needed reprieve from the intensity Red Black Red are capable of expertly sustaining, which the audience is reacquainted with in "Swindle in the Grind." Meanwhile, "Eve in the Kills" opens with a traditional drum beat and chorded electric guitar.

"Loose Child" is written very differently from any other track on the album. Simple piano, and vocals open the song. This becomes punctuated with unique drums and an intriguing rhythm section. But, before becoming too intense, this section continually gives way to the piano and vocals, allowing them to shine through the music once more. The second half of this song, becomes more and more layered, with guitar, rhythm, drums and backing vocals, building up to a guitar solo. The eponymous track, "Bloody Wing," is mixed exceedingly well, filled with variety which excellently keeps in with the mode of the song. It oscillates from intensity to calmness accompanied by piano, before opening itself to a variation of the original melody which began the song. While "Bloody Wing" opens with intensity, before becoming calm and then returning to intensity, "Banshees" inverts the order and begins with calmness before building up to intensity and fading into calmness once more. "Waves of Gold" opens with acoustic guitar and vocals and sounds like familiar territory, however, the synth creeps in, and we are transported from one genre to another more electronic dimension.

One of the most impressive things about Red Black Red is not a single track on this album is under 3 minutes long. Each song is well thought out, relates to the rest of the album and speaks volumes of the time and effort put into this album. This band didn't churn out 1 minute hits, they have created individual sagas in their songs which also work excellently in tandem on an album.