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XORIGIN

State Of The Art

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melodic rock

studio album

12 tracks - TT 51:48

release date: August 26, 2011

<http://www.frontiers.it>

Although Xorigin is a brand-new band, it is not the first time that vocalist Johannes Stole and guitarist Daniel Palmqvist have been working together. Back in 2007, I got the album "Crossing Over" from P:O:B (ex-Pedestrians Of Blue) and it presented a perfect mix of melodic and progressive rock. Vocalist and founder-member of that band was Johannes Stole and one of the guest musicians on that excellent album (read my review elsewhere on this site) was ... Daniel Palmqvist.

For the origins of Xorigin, we have to go back to Los Angeles, where the band was founded in 1999 under the monicker of Orange Crush. The two Scandinavians were in L.A. for study reasons and killed time with this 'hobby' band. Once they got back in their native countries (Norway for Stole and Sweden for Palmqvist), they continued collaborating on various projects in between other engagements. If the name of Palmqvist rings a bell, it's probably because of his involvement with The Murder Of My Sweet. Anyway, the two friends are now back with Orange Crush, or let me rename that in Xorigin, and recently presented their debut album, called "State Of The Art", through Frontiers Records (in Europe) and King Record Co. (in Japan) in the same month as those labels released brand-new albums from Toby Hitchcock and Work Of Art. The latter two also released excellent albums and the problem could be that Xorigin's debut might get lost in the shuffle. That would be a great mistake as the duo proves that they really are a melodic force to be reckoned with. Their songs, co-written with guys like Daniel Flores and Robert Säll (WOA), could easily compete with the best songs of other melodic rock bands that have released excellent stuff this year. Personally I can't get enough from catchy tunes like opener "Can?t Keep Running", "In The Blink Of An Eye", "The One For Me" and "What Love Is All About". Expertly produced by the aforementioned Daniel Flores and provided with attractive artwork from Nello Dell'Omo (Art for Music), this is an album we might not overlook! (FRCL)

Members' opinions

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rkblues (on 23/10/11)

Cool album to me this is the best of the trio of albums released the same day...this sounds great...has some catchy tunes...good vocals and some real cool tasty solo's by Mr. Palmqvist...a real surprise in a good way.

jaspouille (on 21/10/11)

interesting!!

LeRoux (on 19/10/11)

yep agree with Grepol here
fav track: in the blink of an eye

KimHP (on 19/10/11)

Grepol is correct.

LeD (on 11/10/11)

Very good one. One that might end up on my Top 10 - 2011. There's almost too many good albums this year!

Jez (on 4/10/11)

A real shame that this has been released at the same time as the super hyped Work Of Art and Toby Hitchcock discs, as I fear that it may get completely overlooked with the constant glowing reviews of both of those. That would be a real shame, as there are some real belters on here, and at it's best, it's nearly as good songwise as both of those releases. It's not as super slick as WOA, although I will say in it's favour that it is more varied stylewise, with loads of up tempo stuff, some more Westcoast AOR and even a couple of good ballads aswell. All this pays off handsomely on tracks like the belting opener 'Can't Keep Running' (one of the best opening tracks I've heard this year so far), 'Crying For You' and 'In The Blink Of An Eye'. Special mention too to the excellent Vocalist Johanne Stole (who reminds me of a cross between Joseph Williams and Peter Cetera in places) and some cracking Guitar and Keyboard work too. DO NOT IGNORE THIS DISC.

Modulator (on 1/10/11)

Not bad at all!

adolfo (on 28/09/11)

This one sounds to me like Valentine-Hugo. More than decent AOR

Jarryguo (on 28/09/11)



Nice cd to fans of Novak's debut and 90's AOR!!

Elival (on 27/09/11)



Almost there, but something is missing. Still a decent album.

Grepol (on 27/09/11)



This is straight out of the AOR clichébook. Everything sounds tight and neat. Production is crisp and the performance by the band is okay. Only there are no real highlights and/or lowlights. Nice but not good enough to make a lasting impression.

WOLF 359 (on 27/09/11)



Probably overlooked by many due to the same day release of Toby Hitchcock and W.O.A. Which is a shame because this melodic rock album has some great songs, powerful harmonies and is an album that will be enjoyed by many who visit this forum. Well worth a listen.

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