

Mp3 Jimmy Sparks & The Mist - Rock: Progressive Rock

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A haunting personal journey with Pink Floyd psychedelic flavor enhanced by acoustic Moody Blues sounding tone and a pinch of Radiohead added in. 9 MP3 Songs ROCK: Progressive Rock, ROCK: 70's Rock Details: "The Mist" studio project is a soul-searching journey utilizing a variety of progressive rock methods. There are certainly hints of Pink Floyd, The Moody Blues, Radiohead, Pete Townshend and Brian Wilson involved here. The songs are brought together to tell a story about one man's search for himself. -Jimmy Sparks "Fans of early Pink Floyd and The Moody Blues are sure to enjoy this haunting melodic release. Progressive, but not pretentious." -Kerry Tucker (Einstein's Sister) "Reviewing a CD from an artist you don't know is like going on a blind date. You don't want to make any quick decisions - speed dating aside - but you know the first words out of the person's mouth will be very telling. After dropping in the CD from Jimmy Sparks, I sat back and waited while an ominous-sounding bass grew from the speakers around me. It was a little disconcerting, but I held on and was rewarded by ominous-sounding lyrics and vocals. I liked it in the same way I like truly dramatic horror movies. Not that Sparks' work was frightening, but it was deep and darkly compelling. I wouldn't recommend it to friends who are just embarking on a Prozac regime or someone who tends to despair. The songs lead to contemplation, but not exactly meditation. Some of the songs seemed to be at war with themselves - lyrics at odds with the music that separated the verses and was almost manic in comparison to Sparks' smooth vocals. The song "Bed" is particularly disjointed, with Sparks' beginning softly, then bringing in guitars and the sound of seagulls, which soon morph into the screeching of a flock of Hitchcock-minded birds. I don't want to run the psychological theme into the ground. But many of the tunes are like sitting in on the soundtrack of someone's therapy session - the highs included with the lows. Still, this CD calls for repeated listening. I'll take the second date, thank you." -Beverly Durfee (The Daily Sentinel, Grand Junction, Colorado) "If there was a category for '70s derived prog rock this album would fit it quite neatly... Lyrically it presents a journey from darkness to light and there are thought provoking moments all along the way. For me the stronger tracks include "Mist In The Trees" and "My Faith Is Strong". " -Terry Bateman (Cross Rhythms - UK) "I hate to pigeon hole Jim Sparks' music, but I would have to say that musically it has the definite

flavor of Pink Floyd, Moody Blues, Jethro Tull, and even a little Beach Boys. Yet, Jim's music is entirely his own. His lyrics are deep, observant, and occasionally funny or cynical. Ironically, this particular album is airy and open sounding, giving the listener a released feeling. I'm a guy who's been a professional musician for almost 25 years and who normally listens to mainstream pop rock. For some reason, I kept coming back to listen to Jim's album. Maybe because it is a little different. Maybe because it's just good."

-Shawn Anderson (DOXA) "Soothing sounds of Jimmy Sparks. 2 things came to mind as soon as the cd came on .. First was Pink Floyd, second was Simon and Garfunkel. Whether you like these bands or not, they are bands that have sold millions of albums, therefore, I think it's going to be most appealing to those who appreciate soothing sounds and a mellow time. There wasn't too much diversity to the album, from the moment I put it on until the moment the cd was over, my mood didn't change at all. So this can be a good thing or a bad thing. For me at the time it was nice because I was driving in my jeep and the sun was beating down, so it seemed suiting."

-Jake at Alberta Rock Radio "If you like your Floyd Pink and your Blues Moody, Jimmy Sparks The Mist should fit nicely in your CD collection. Not just a one-man band, Mr. Sparks also wears the hats of writer, producer, engineer, packaging artist and nearly every other job associated with this release. Psychedelic layering balanced by stark acoustic tracks. This is prog-rock to be certain, but doesn't sound dated. A nod to his elders, ELP, Yes, etc., an ear open to his contemporaries. Think Radiohead that you and your dad could trip out to together and you're on the right track."

-Reid Robinson, (owner of Co-op Records, Moline, IL and Davenport, IA)

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