

REVIEW: Gary Fox "Vinyl"

Posted by jimmygraymusic - 14 Mar 2017 14:46

GARY FOX "VINYL"

review by Jimmy G

Before getting into detail you should just know this album is phenomenal and you should go start listening to it right now!

COLLEGE TRY: I've had this song stuck in my head since the first listen to "Vinyl" a week or two ago. Very catchy melodies on both vocals and guitars. There is a lot of depth to the production of this song, which includes a somehow fitting blend of massive sounding drums and gentle hand percussion. The chord progression builds and flows very nicely, almost as though seamlessly jumping through key modulations. Gary sets up his album in this song, claiming that he's gonna give it his all, but it may be his last time.

FISHER OF MEN: John and George are alive and well in the soul of Gary Fox, and it shines through in the guitar work in "Fisher Of Men." There is a bounce to this song, with ebbs and flows that make for a very interesting listen. Nice movement in the mix. This is one of my favorite songs from the album, and if you're a fan of the warm music of the 1960's you'll love it too!

LORD KNOWS: The opening bit with drums and guitars is loaded with attitude. The song builds nicely as the drums grow, and I find it's impossible to keep from rockin back and forth to the beat of the song. A nice song here, with more repetition and predictability than the last couple of songs. Until of course, that all changes toward the end with some very interesting guitar and drum work!

RANSOM: The song starts off with a mellow, soulful organ joined by guitar that hits right in the heart. A nice slow ballad, with a powerful lead vocal, this is definitely a departure from the last four songs. Tasteful instrumental accents throughout add to the drama of the song and tell the story of the lyrics.

SOMETIMES I PRAY: There is a very real darkness in this song. It's as if I've been transported to a deep, dark cave searching for an escape. In this aspect the production perfectly fits the lyrics. There is a turn where the darkness of the song disappears in a mystical, swirling way only to revisit later.

LOVELY MARY: I love the 12 string guitar sounds across this album. There is a very nice descending guitar line in this song, accented with an angry guitar that follows that rhythm but is a stark contrast. There is certainly a vibe of some of the heavier Beatles songs evident in this song once again. The bridge of this song is a beautiful piece of music. Gary's done a great job of transitioning between light and dark when these contrasting parts come and go within his songs.

SOMEDAY: A cheery guitar starts this song off. Gary's vocal melody has a nice variation, while the guitar is mostly repetitive. Throughout the album, the vocals have sat perfectly in the songs, with excellent harmonies in the background throughout. Guitars are layered perfectly, and a rippin solo is a nice addition.

LOVE WHAT YOU DO: Another very well produced song, with great guitar and vocal work. Gary's songs all feature smart chord progressions that are charmingly unpredictable. This song changes dramatically throughout, and in a very interesting way. Love the transitions in this song! Very original, but in no way forced.

LONELY CHILDREN: Another tastefully done slow song, with beautiful guitar work throughout. When the song turns, it becomes a rocking bar room sing along. A nice mix on this song where a guitar solo that sounds as though it was played at a low volume is placed front and center in the mix.

BEAUTIFUL: The opening musical theme brings me back to "Lovely Mary" from earlier in the album. I love albums that incorporate elements such as that, so nice work! This is a quick moving song with a fast tempo, a blazing guitar solo, and an energetic vocal. Nice transitions between parts of the song with a massive build and fall with the choruses at the end.

BREATHE: A nice close to the album. One of my favorites. Simple yet very effective. Repetitive lyrics instructing the listener to breathe, and tune out what they say eventually give way to incessant chatter that can't be tuned out. I think we can all relate.

Overall, "Vinyl" is a great album, and an amazing RPM album. The lyrics and melodies stick with you and make a lasting impression. The spirit of the 60's is still alive in these songs, both in the guitar work and warm production sounds. A twelve string guitar and a perfectly mixed vocal tie this whole album together from a production standpoint, while a wide variety of tones ensure no two songs sound the same. To me though, the highlight of "Vinyl" is the way that Gary moves between such widely contrasting parts within every song. His arrangements are expertly crafted, and if at any point you start thinking "I know where this song is going now" then you will be wrong. Every vinyl has a side A and side B, and so does every song on this fantastic album. Great stuff!

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Re: REVIEW: Gary Fox "Vinyl"

Posted by Gary Fox - 15 Mar 2017 18:47

Thank you so, so much, Mr. Gray. I greatly appreciate the kind words. I was specifically aiming for a creamy, swirling tone this year, and I am really glad that you caught and enjoyed that.

These reviews mean so much, since we're all one great RPM family, and we have come to hear and recognize everyone's talents and abilities as the years have progressed. So when you and my other RPM brothers and sisters like what I have done; it is something very special to me.

Cheers and thank you again!

Gary

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