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CHRONICLE / REVIEW

THE ARISTOCRATS

FREEZE! LIVE IN EUROPE 2020

8.4



Release information

Release date:

May 7, 2021

Format:

CD, Digital, Vinyl

Label:

Boing!

From:

UK/USA/Germany

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Sebastien Buret

TRANSLATED REVIEW (GOOGLE TRANSLATE) BELOW FRENCH TEXT!

For those of us who don't know the band, The Aristocrats was formed in 2011 by guitarist Guthrie GOVAN, bassist Bryan BELLER and finally drummer Marco MINNEMANN. This is what is called a "super group" because the pedigree of each of the musicians, like their mastery, their talent are impressive. Neither Steven WILSON, Joe SATRIANI, Steve HACKETT and many others are unaware of this by recruiting them for many years, whether for the recording phases of albums or as part of their world tours.

In 2019, "You know what...?" was released, the group's fourth opus. There followed an important tour of nearly 100 dates which stopped short in Spain in 2020. The confinement, the closure of cultural places and the health restrictions due to Covid 19 sounded the death knell for the latter. Mass was said: it was definitely coming to an end. With the capture of strong moments in hand and more particularly of their Hispanic prowess, they decided to release a new live album for the delight of aficionados which was released in May 2021 and entitled: "The Aristocrats, Freeze! Live in Europe". The title is clear and evokes the freezing of their concerts.

Like a documentary, I would say that the whole thing restores the spirit of the formation, namely an absolute musical mastery but also a great complicity, a symbiosis as they seem to find each other with their eyes closed and that without fail. Among other things, what makes them even more likeable is their simplicity, all the humor they show while having fun with figurines on stage, especially among other antics that are oh so refreshing and beneficial in this period. There is no "attitude" note when writing a column and well be, I give them 10/10 anyway.

Musically, no surprise, the register is wide, varied, mixing rock, progressive, jazz, fusion with delicious digressions towards flamenco in "Spanish Eddie".

Taken largely from their latest album, the six tracks follow one another like a musical journey. Personally, "The balad of Bonnie and Clyde" capsizes me every time. The theme, the interpretation are purely hypnotic in

my opinion, it's purely magical!

Rush fans will also appreciate the tribute offered by The Aristocrats to drummer Neal Peart in "Get it like that" with many winks through taken up themes (Tom Sawyer, YYZ) and a fabulous solo by Mister MINNEMANN such an icing on the cake.

Like the magnificent cover representing the three artists in figurines, I find in this album all the ingredients that make us love this kind of musicians: an art and a way of being and of seeing music. If you add a good dose of originality and freedom, you get this kind of record. It's the thaw it seems, I can't wait to find all these beautiful people in the flesh, don't you?

[Google Translate Link](#)

TRACKS / TRACKS

- 01 D Grade Fuck Movie Jam (6:58)
- 02 Spanish Eddie (8:57)
- 03 When We All Come Together (6:37)
- 04 The Ballad of Bonnie and Clyde (7:47)
- 05 Get It Like That (Dedicated to Neil Peart) (18:54)
- 06 Last Orders (10:50)

MUSICIANS / MUSICIANS

Guthrie Govan – Guitar
Brian Beller – Bass
Marco Minnemann – Drums

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