

Smash Palace - 7 (2010)

Written by bluesever

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- 01 – *Win it All*
- 02 – *How Can You Say*
- 03 – *Holding Out for You*
- 04 – *Human Kind*
- 05 – *All in Love is Fair*
- 06 – *Here it Comes Again* [play](#)
- 07 – *Bridge of Sighs* [play](#)
- 08 – *Dead End Street*
- 09 – *Somebody Up There Likes Me*
- 10 – *Secret Life*
- 11 – *Solo*

Personnel:

Stephen Butler (vocals, guitar, piano);
DyAnne DiSalvo (vocals);
Phil Rizzo (bass guitar);
Greg DiDonato (drums).

The roots of Smash Palace lie in the great but short-lived new wave band Quincy, who put out a terrific major-label album in 1980 before entering into oblivion. Five years later, singer Brian Butler and his guitar-playing brother Steven resurfaced under the Smash Palace moniker, but their album didn't gain much traction either. Against all odds, Smash Palace released a follow-up 14 years later and have been active ever since. Having long ago sanded off some of the glossier, more overtly '80s-sounding edges of their sound, the Butler brothers have become proponents of a classy, catchy power pop style whose roots reach all the way back to the hook-laden tunes of Quincy, but bear an undeniably contemporary feel at the same time. The production on the band's 2010 release, 7, is crisp and clean, focused squarely on sharp-shooting guitar riffs and harmony-heavy vocals, with no superfluous sonic elements

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standing between the listener and Smash Palace's unerringly tuneful compositions. While "Holding Out for You" boasts some rather Beatlesque chord changes, and opening cut "Win It All" has a sort of Cheap Trick/Raspberries momentum, the Butlers and company are not slavish imitators of retro power pop flavors -- rather, they offer up a mature but still frisson-packed variation on the classic power pop template, full of the kind of gravitas that only experience can bring. Though they sometimes sound like they could be peers of newer pop/rockers like, for instance, the 88, they do, after all, have their origin in another era. ---James Allen, AllMusic Review

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