

Quatermass - Quatermass (1970/2013)

Written by bluesever

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01 - *One Blind Mice (Single A Side)* [00:03:26] 02 - *Entropy* [00:01:10] 03 - *Black Sheep Of The Family* [00:03:41] 04 - *Post War Saturday Echo* [00:09:52] 05 - *Good Lords Know* [00:03:12] 06 - *Up On The Ground* [00:07:09] 07 - *Gemini* [00:05:54] 08 - *Make Up Your Mind* [00:01:43] 09 - *What Was That* [00:05:58] 10 - *Make Up Your Mind (Reprise)* [00:01:03] 11 - *Laughin'Tackle* [00:11:31] 12 - *Putting (Single B Side)* [00:07:21] 13 - *Afraid Not (Previously Unreleased)* [00:05:25] 14 - *Bluegaloo-Broken Chords-Scales (Live 1974)* [00:06:30] John Gustafson - bass, vocals Peter Robinson - keyboards, string arrangements Mick Underwood – drums + Gassama – percussion, congas Schaffer – guitar Steve Hammond – 12 string guitar, vocals Karin Stigmark – vocals

This is one of the best progressive rock albums of the seventies. There are moments of intricate keyboard work, a solid rhythm section which is never boring, as well as great vocals. Some may wonder at that last contention. Gustafson is not a glamorous singer, but he was motivated here, and sings with the kind of conviction needed to put a song over the top. This is not to say that all of his singing is loud. Indeed, "Good Lord Knows" has a simple almost gentle vocal approach which is perfect for the sentiment expressed: sad acquiescence.

When I first heard this album, it took me a few songs before I realized there was no guitar player. This is due not to my lack of attention, but to the interesting keyboard flourishes (quite a nice tone and similar to Jon Lord of Deep Purple). I had to ask myself whether I needed guitar in progressive rock to enjoy it. The answer in this case is no.

Entropy begins the album with a pleasant molasses atmosphere which then segues into Black Sheep of the Family which features some enjoyable yelping from Gustafson. I won't review each song, but will say all are good, some more than others. The two bonus tracks hold up well, and the string accompaniment is better than found on most rock records.

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Despite fitting fairly comfortably in the Prog category, this album mixes a working-class feel with the fancier aspects. Call it an earthbound element, if you will, to balance the soaring musical themes. Listeners with the ability to enjoy a wide range of music should be able to appreciate this piece which is of a period, but transcends being a period piece. The recent Esoteric remaster of this album has improved sound with original masters used where possible. There are also two additional bonus tracks beyond those included on previous CD releases. All but the two new tracks are featured in a 5.1 DVD-A mix on the second disc. An essential progressive rock package. --- TABLEAU, progarchives.com

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