



The Breath of Life – Under The Falling Stars (Wool-E Discs)

English:CD-review

👤 Van Muylem 📅 25 mei 2017

It's 2017 and **The Breath of Life** are back to proudly announce the long awaited album *Under the falling stars*. With this 9th release, the band takes the listener back into their own specific realm of emotions. Mixed, produced & mastered by **Gilles Martin (Tuxedomoon, Malaria, Wire, Minimal Compact, Indochine)**, who worked with the band on their first five albums. Dive with us into this heavenly voices and darkwave/shoegaze pearl ...

I must say it's not easy for me to review this one as I know this band for ages and recently worked together with **Didier** who is since the last edition of the Trolls et Légendes responsible for the bands. **Isabelle Dekeyser** was even helping out **Wardruna** with their merchandise and sold it all out before the end of their gig. I have seen this band as warming up band, as headliner, as part of a lot of festivals, ... I know how good they are on stage and I know all of their biggest hits. Sadly I feel as if they could have reached a bit more if some helped them out a bit more, but still: they are known in Europe and that is not bad for a band from Belgium. But let's return to the music!

The album starts with *A Rainbow's Fading*: a cool bass and a guitar that reminds me a bit of **Red Hot Chili Pepper**, followed by an electronic violin and the heavenly voice of **Isabelle**. It's a pretty nice track with lots of variation and so catchy. I can describe *Crime Passionel* as a classic The Breath of Life track: it has the typical electronics, guitars and vocal lines I know from so many of their songs I so much love and adore. *The Right Place* sounds totally different, starts with a wall of sound but changes into a more romantic one: the vocals will enchant you. I clearly hear how good the vocals are: climbing and going down as if it was a child's game. From time to time we get an instrumental outburst, giving it some power. I'm pretty confident this one will be a great one to perform on stages all over Europe!

Stolen Dreams goes a bit faster, has a retro touch and sounds pretty catchy (and will be for sure a hit on stage). More nice and romantic vibes come with *The Magic of Dreams*. The bass line plays an important role, just as the beatbox and Isabelle's vocals. The music sounds like a bit upgraded towards the previous tracks. *Hide* has a more electronic sound with now and then aggressive guitars. The music is catchy, warm and dragging you into it (with the help of a singing siren). *A New Reality* sounds like a false rocker with some electronics and a good tempo. Towards the end we even get some kind of wall of sound with all the instruments and very appealing vocals. *Until The Day* sounds like a floating dream, the promise of a sweet and romantic moment or even a wedding. *Blackout* is more fired up and sounds a bit different from the other songs (even the vocals sound a bit different): it feels like a great but very raw song and literally jumps out of this album (even with a jazzy feel and a **Pixies** momentum). Once again I feel this will be a great song to perform on stage and might even become a hit if promoted as due.

Higher returns to the typical standards of this band, with a slow tempo and some cool guitar ragging and playing whilst the vocals gently weep. The sadness and melancholy is blending in with the violin and the rest of the music. *From The Storms* is already the last track and has somehow a more techno minded feel mixed with an American guitar touch, a cool bass and a catchy sound. It feels like a warm explosion of love and a perfect ending!

I must say they surprised me in a positive way with here and then a newer sound and unveiling some new possibilities! I think some tracks have a hit potential, but it will all depend on the promotion and the way fans push them. I hope they get the attention needed and will tour a lot to promote the album!

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