

REVIEWS

by Michael "Jacobs" McKenna

TWELVE TWENTY FOUR

"Light in the Dark"

It's the most wonderful time of the year and what's better than a 15-track CD loaded with awesome rocking Christmas music? Nothing that I can think of at this moment. Why? Because the windows are rattling, I have a hot cup of Earl Gray tea, snow is on the ground and this reviewer is a rockin' at about 110db!

The TSO tribute band is on and I'm sitting here listening to the closest thing to perfection that is on disc. Twelve-Twenty Four is the type of band that makes you a believer before the first song is finished. Their attention to detail, unbelievable talent and their intricate recomposition of the classics can only be described as masterful!

When I reviewed their first CD "Miracle on Rock Street" back in 2010, I had described their music as "clean, crisp rock and roll with ELO sounding orchestration on favorites that you will instantly recognize". Today I would say "it has the hardness and creativity of Rush combined with the finesse and perfection of Pink Floyd"!! Believe me, there are very few I would even venture to describe in that manner out of respect for those musicians!

"Light in the Dark" has 15 tracks that are all very different but so alike that once you're caught, you won't get away! "Praise" starts with spoken word from Kelsey Barnes backed by musical effects, which sends shivers down one's spine. The explosion of sound that follows with "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" just blew me clear across the room! The title track, a Twelve-Twenty Four original, "Light in the Dark", features Frank Gruden's precise manipulation of the keys which enhance Kyle Segarra's crisp vocals and are backed up by Lenny Kucinski's awesome guitar riffs. "Winter" is just totally 'out of the box' cool! It gives me the feeling of sitting in Radio City Music Hall listening to a 100 piece orchestra!

"Winter Heart" features the golden pipes of Bobbi Kucinski as she puts some deep feeling into this track.

This could end up being a holiday staple on the air-waves! "In Excelsis Deo" features the vocals of Jason Santos as he nails this classic. "Funeral March" also features Jay Santos, this time on guitar, as he projects the full feeling of the songs meaning. "Revelation" is another spoken word piece from Kelsey Barnes about the Old Testament Revelations 21-4 parable. "This Day Forward" has dueling vocals from Bobbie Kucinski and Tanisha Redding that mesh beautifully together. The piano outro is AWESOME! WOW!

"Only One True Path W3K2K12" is a masterful recomposition of "We Three Kings" that defies description! The string solos left me speechless! Perfection at its finest! "The Lull" has Kevin Reilly, front and center, with some piercing vox that are beyond belief. "Illuminations" dedicated to the late Andrew Collinsworth, brings me visions of certain Irish viola masters in the manner and style that Christina Barnes emulates with total precision. WELL DONE GIRL, YOU ROCK!

"Awakening" taken from John 3:16 is very well done by Kelsey and the accompaniment of the keys and back vox add so much to this. The classic Christmas favourite "Joy to the World" has Kevin Reilly belting out crisp, clean vocals and manipulating the frets that is way cool. The key solo rocks as well as the acapella back vocals from the ladies. The final track "Christmas Miracle" shows the acoustic prowess of Jason Santos and Tanisha Redding's beautiful pipes which mesmerize the listener.

It is so hard for me to describe what I have just heard. It is not often I find myself at a loss for words. Only by listening to this CD will one be able to validate my description and experience. This CD is a holiday MUST LISTEN!!!! I think only one word can be used to describe this effort..... INCREDIBLE!!

