

INDREK PATTE

Euphoric, symphonic prog from veteran Estonian artist.

WITH A POPULATION of less than 1.5 million people and less than two decades having passed since the end of Russian occupation, Estonia might not seem like the most likely breeding ground for world-class symphonic prog, but one listen to Indrek Patte's debut solo album *Celebration* should end all doubt. Simultaneously a heartfelt tribute to the great progressive bands of the early 70s and a mercifully subtle expression of its creator's religious faith, the album sounds like the work of someone who has been absorbing adventurous music for many decades, becoming a master of all melodic trades in the process.

"At around seven or eight, I began to listen to a lot of pop and rock music in English," Indrek says. "My first favourites were The Beatles and Led Zeppelin, but it was hard to get hold of new music at the time because foreign records weren't sold in stores. It was still possible to obtain records from abroad, which then circulated among friends. In 1972 I had the luck to listen to *Close To The Edge* by Yes. I was instantly mesmerised by it. I had discovered the kind of music that completely reflected my own inner world."

Although Estonia has certainly had its fair share of home-grown prog acts over the years – Indrek cites Ruja, Mess and In Spe as significant contributors – *Celebration* marks a first credible opportunity for its scene to make an impact overseas. A thrillingly intricate but endlessly melodic eruption of euphoric, symphonic prog, it manages to combine unapologetic nods to Yes, Genesis and Gentle Giant while still sounding endearingly distinctive. Having spent decades making music since forming his first band, Linnu Tee, Indrek has grasped the chance to share his passion with the rest of the world, and the results are suitably ecstatic.

"The material for *Celebration* has been accumulating over many years but it became a unified whole in 2010 when I wrote the musical arrangements," he states. "The lyrics convey a spiritual message. For me, *Celebration* is a concept album, portraying a man's spiritual journey from resurrection to celebration."

Logistics may conspire to prevent Indrek Patte from touring the world in the near future, but he has already performed *Celebration* live at St Olaf's Church in Tallinn and has plans to repeat the trick later this year. With a number of other ongoing musical projects keeping him firmly entrenched in the studio, the veteran multi-instrumentalist looks certain to become a regular source of joyous new music over the next few years. Fittingly, societal and technological progress has enabled this diehard prog soldier to reach out to the wider world and he couldn't be more delighted.

"I am very happy and thankful that my music has attracted interest from Europe, America and Asia," he says. "I've received a lot of positive feedback from admirers of progressive rock from all over the world, and thanks to the internet, I can also stay up to date with music from other countries. It's wonderful!" **DL**



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PROG FILE



LINE-UP

Indrek Patte
(all instruments)

SOUNDS LIKE

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CURRENT RELEASE

Celebration is out now on Strangiato

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