

Sid Smith's Postcards From The Yellow Room

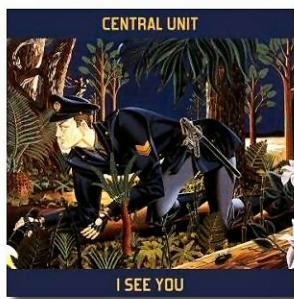
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FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2011

Central Unit I See You



Central Unit

I See You

M&P Records

There's a strong tradition in Italian prog circles for prodigious displays of technique, near-operatic arias from the vocalists and as much ramped-up bombast as can be mustered across the space of an album.

However, every now and then, it's good to go with something a bit more introspective and, truth be told, a little easier on the ear. If that suggests that Bologna's Central Unit, represents a bland choice in what is often an overly macho field then fear not.

Their sixth album is rich in atmospheric, effective combinations between synthetic and real instrumentation and strong, surging melodies. Typical of these is the stately tempo of *Wooden Bread*, blessed with has a sombre yet graceful feel underpinned by Enrico Giuliani's thrumming bass and a splendidly freewheeling piano solo from the band's principal composer, Riccardo Lotti. Elsewhere squalling saxes, clouds of mellotron and fizzing shape-shifting electronica create a convincing soundtrack.

Alongside instrumental tracks that are as amiable as they are accessible, there's the odd catchy tune whose vocals are frosted with an unobtrusive vocoder coating. Not unlike the proggy pop of Air circa *Moon Safari*, the agreeably soulful singing of Rossana Giorioso on *Too Late* raises the temperature.

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ABOUT ME



Sid Smith

I'm a freelance writer from North East England living in Whitley Bay. As well as writing sleeve notes for independent and major record labels, web content management, and contributions to both regional and national press, I'm the author of a critically acclaimed rock biography, *In The Court of King Crimson* (2001), and *Northstars* (2005), Granada TV's Royal Television Award-winning series profiling musicians from the North East region. I've been blogging since 1999, commenting on music in particular and the arts in general, as well as whatever takes my fancy.

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