

REVIEWS „Driven“

Review in GITARRE & BASS 10/2019 by Lothar Trampert

Thorsten Praest - DRIVEN

“There is a lot of throttle here! Bassist Slawek Semeniuk, drummer Ulf Stricker and guitarist & bandleader Thorsten Praest play classic jazz-rock, so the more edgy and interesting fusion music. And their music really rocks and grooves extremely. Praest manages to create exciting moments on this really extensively researched retro terrain, because of his remarkable technique and tasteful musicality. His compositions do not redefine the genre, but they are extremely to the point, thrillingly arranged, and guitaristically, as in terms of the rhythm section, magnificently realized. The instrumental sounds are right here, the entire production sounds extremely powerful and always surprises with very plastic spatial effects.

Thorsten Praest had seen KISS live when he started playing the guitar at the age of ten. First classically with lessons, then self-taught, it followed the first bands, and finally he studied jazz and rock guitar at the M.G.I., then jazz and improvised music at the HKA in Arnhem / Netherlands. Currently Thorsten works as a freelance guitarist and guitar instructor. "Driven" is his first solo album - a start on an extremely high level, I would say.

Stratocaster fan Thorsten loves classic overdrive sounds, but he also creates wonderful clean intros, like in "Separate Ways", where he reminds of a jazzy Robin Trower. blues-rock-jazz-feeling! He also knows funk, fingerpicking and furious fusion, but here he seems to be more at home, he sounds even more organic, e.g. in mid-tempo minor blues "Growing Away". And then at the end of the album it gets jazzy again and funky and super virtuoso - and I start "Driven" again from the beginning. No wonder, because this diversified debut is really great and always surprises. Great musician and guitarist!“

Review GUITAR magazine 12/2019 by Lukas Lautenbacher

“The new instrumental album by Thorsten Praest is recommended for fans of fusion-soaked rock sounds. The Dusseldorfer, who is well trained in jazz and rock, knows how to eloquently display his know-how in the hardrock with the title track "Driven". Playfully, he combines scale material from rock, jazz, blues and funk and skilfully meets these different worlds. For example, the different stylistic facets in "Frizzled" create a varied mood that always pick up the listener and surprises him. For "Mai Lin", Praest hired fusion master Greg Howe for a guest solo. Even in the purely acoustic held "Black Flowers" the genre-crossing musician convinces completely.”

Review "FLIGHT OF PEGASUS" 11/2019

"The first personal album of the German guitarist is not only interesting for those who systematically deal with fusion and jazz, but also for those who long for a nice and pleasant sound, beyond appropriate and sloppy impression attempts. Here you have the opportunity to meet the friendly side of a capable instrumental player, his casual but accurate playing in a clear and well-made context. His material is without vocals, but light but with a decidedly strong rise, it leaves a positive impression, because it is qualitative and radiates pleasant feelings. He himself easily implies that his discrete approach is a reflection of his good knowledge and commitment in the field, how else could he succeed in working in one piece with Greg Howe. The recording would probably fit a larger, more varied sound, some parts should sound more atmospheric, but its restraint is not misleading at all. You will appreciate it duly."

Review on CROSSFIRE-METAL.DE from Steve Burdelak

"It's shredder's time again. My friend Adrian Weiss (Gloryful) recommended a colleague to me, who then sent me his piece of silver in the mail. Nice if even more unknown acts, spare no expense and effort to delight the reviewer with a physical product. If the photos (inside) are still funny, the cover may have turned out a bit unfortunate. You want to arouse curiosity. So directly to the well-produced music. "Driven" has become a typical instrumental album for guitar fans. I would rather advise shredder fetishists, because the ten-part work is far from continuing the shrapnel era. The Six-Stringer, together with the support of bassist Slawek Semeniuk and drummer Ulf Stricker, serves us a great deal of sensitivity. For example, the tune "Separate Ways", which brings out the blues, which can also be found on some Pink Floyd pieces. The man can also do jazz and so enchants the number "Wrong Turn" with wonderful bass runs. An album that still stands between rock and fusion, light-footed and memorable. Unfortunately, I am a die-hard fan of Joe Satriani and have to admit that despite all the presence of intimate moments, such as on "Black Flowers" and generally playful art, memorable tracks with high-flyer level are not the main goal of the protagonist. But the debut work (!) is often funky and has the master Greg Howe, with the cool solo on "Mai Lin" as a guest. "

Rating: 8.5 of 10

Author: Steve Burdelak