



B- Zeus *Busting Visions*

By Noel Murray March 27, 2012

Zeus' 2010 debut album, *Say Us*, split the difference between the Badfinger and **Harry Nilsson** versions of "Beatlesque," adopting both power-pop crunch and freewheeling imagination. Now Zeus returns with the decidedly rowdier and loopier *Busting Visions*, which widens the band's influence-pool to include Thin Lizzy, Queen, The Faces, The Zombies, and Wings. (Not that Zeus had to widen that much to include the latter.) Like their fellow countrymen in Sloan, the members of Zeus take turns writing the songs, and bring different, sometimes competing sensibilities to bear from track to track. What ultimately unifies *Busting Visions*, like *Say Us* before it, is the skill and enthusiasm of the musicians. Throw anything at these guys; they can play it.

But while the performances, production, and arrangements on *Busting Visions* are uniformly excellent, the songwriting is not. It's too bad that Zeus didn't include any of the four songs it released between LPs—especially the fiery "Hot Under The Collar," which is one of the band's best—because that would've upped the album's winning percentage considerably. As it stands, *Busting Visions* is weighed down by too many songs that sound like generic '70s AM pop-rock (such as "Now That I've Got You") and too many songs like "Love/Pain," "Love In A Game," and "Anything You Want Dear," where all the tight harmonies, clean-burning guitars, and glammy polish are in service of gratingly repetitive hooks.

Still, as with Sloan, what makes Zeus so much fun—and makes the band's occasional lapses forgivable—is that at any given moment, *Busting Visions* can turn on a dime and deliver the pitch-perfect Colin Blunstone impression of "With Eyes Closed," or can segue organically from the gospel-tinged "Hello, Tender Love" to the catchy, piano-driven "Messenger's Way." Zeus is eminently capable of delights and surprises. Don't like one song? Just wait a couple of minutes.

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Civic

The constant comparisons to Sloan make me curious.

7 MONTHS AGO



Mr. Saturn

Aside from both being Canadian bands with four members, they have little in common. Zeus has a really distinct classic rock vibe. I'm scratching my head a little.

7 MONTHS AGO



chwell

I can see this as being considered a more "coked out" Navy Blues

7 MONTHS AGO 1 LIKE



Noel Murray

To be fair, I don't say that the bands sound alike; only that they have multiple songwriters and astonishing versatility. Which is true.

That said, Sloan's pretty classic-rock-inspired, too. The poppier end, yes, but still rooted in the '70s.

7 MONTHS AGO



Ukridge

The Sloan comparisons are rather facile; they'll come to mind because both bands are four-pieces from Canada where each member writes songs, and they switch around on instruments. Their sounds are rather different though; Sloan is much more power-pop, whereas Zeus, as Mr. Saturn says, are closer to classic rock.

Now that that's out of the way, this is a great album (I give it the highest grade possible - a B+), and Zeus put on a great show, so if they're coming to your town, go see them!

7 MONTHS AGO



jordan08

I'm a Sloan fan and have come to appreciate Zeus as well, and while I agree that they do have their differences... You cannot deny the similarities as well. Especially on this album, I had flashbacks to "One chord to another" all throughout. And yes, Go see Zeus live, they put on a great show!

5 MONTHS AGO



TheMagicRat

You know your man is working hard - he's worth a Zeus.

7 MONTHS AGO



Asshole of Green Gables

Odin, Odin, Odin.

7 MONTHS AGO

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