

PEGASUS – “Heroes & Champions”

Impressive proof of maturity!

Two years ago, Pegasus gave an impressive account of their capabilities with their debut CD. After a long concert tour through Switzerland, during which the band managed to fire up many people – including Joe Cocker – the quartet has taken a step back to create new songs with producer Thomas Fessler. The result is fleet-footed yet thoughtful pop, which captures both the magic of the sixties and the hard rock of the 70s, but which has both feet firmly planted in the here and now. “Heroes & Champions” is the calling card of a band on the threshold of adulthood as it sets the tension between yesterday and tomorrow to music that really gets to you.

Sometimes a stroke of good fortune can produce magical moments. No, this is not about the 1996 FIFA World Cup, which brought singer Noah and guitarist Simon together. Nor are we harping back to the time when the original Pegasus members met Stefan in the local greengrocer’s. He turned out to be a gifted percussionist and is today as much a part of the band’s success as is bassist Gabriel. The quartet from Biel/Bienne, with a penchant for catchy pop melodies likes looking back to the good old days. After all, the band from the southern foot of the Jura mountains has been together for what seems like forever. They have stuck together through thick and thin, and have not resisted temptation on their difficult road to the top. Pegasus is characterised by a positive outlook whose young members have their sights set on the future. This is communicated by their second CD, “Heroes & Champions”, which follows on from their first work “A Place To Be” musically, but nevertheless is a giant leap forward for many reasons. Asked to name the biggest difference between “A Place To Be” and “Heroes & Champions”, Noah Veraguth answers: “The songs on the first CD were white music. The new ones, on the other hand, sound a lot blacker to me. “Heroes & Champions” is an urban offering from musicians who have left the provinces behind.” Yet the texts also tell of the end of youth, of letting go, of the sometimes difficult transition into the adult world and new expectations. The title song is one example, but other texts, too, scratch beneath the surface of the usual pop tune – like “Nothing Left To Say”, a magnificent achievement. Anyone who thinks they detect an adoring homage to The Beach Boys (harmony) or The Beatles (melodies) is right. But Pegasus are not merely a sixties retro band, since their songs also combine hard guitar riffs that are very much punk in style and still current today. As I said, Pegasus is a band of the present with both feet firmly planted in the year 2009. Its members have provided brilliant proof of their maturity.

And, of course, there was the stroke of good fortune that played a big role in the success of the new album. In the studio, Pegasus met the world-class British session musician and pianist James Hallawell, who was immediately taken with the Swiss quartet’s music and took on a key role. “Over time, James became a real band member,” said singer-songwriter Noah Veraguth looking back in amazement at the recording sessions, which began in April 2008 and were completed in late autumn. Producer Thomas Fessler too, who had already taken charge of the Christmas single “Back on Christmas”, was able to lift Pegasus’ sound to a new level and an international format. And there was also a certain Lenny Kravitz, who looked in

on the studio one day to record a song. Unfortunately Kravitz didn't make it onto "Heroes & Champions", but his spirit is nevertheless felt.



The band members:

Noah Veraguth: lead vocals, backing vocals, rhythm guitar, piano, organ

Simon Spahr: lead guitar, rhythm guitar, backing vocals

Gabriel Spahni: bass guitar, electric piano, backing vocals

Stefan Brenner: drums, percussion, backing vocals

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