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## Xell - The Bulgarian metal blowout powercore 'n' speed up music stalgia

European Music Group

file under different metal



Martin: Well, what's in a name? The album title 'The

Bulgarian metal blowout powercore 'n' speed up music stalgia' will not earn this one-man project any prizes, but in fact it's a fairly good description of what is going on here. Xell offers a very eclectic take on music, combining technical metal with Bulgarian folk, klezmer, techno, etcetera. Throughout its 42 minutes this album is anything but boring, although it takes an open mind to really appreciate it. Fans of Secret Chiefs 3, Estradasphere and possibly also Diablo Swing Orchestra should definitely give it a try.

Employing a vast number of guest musicians on this album (nope, I'm not going to repeat that awful title) Xell has forged a truly massive soundscape, in which there is no real distinction between the 'metal' and the 'non-metal' elements: everything fits together as a skillfully crafted musical piece, and that's quite an accomplishment given its broad range. Moreover, Andi Bueckle (Blue Man Group) has provided the album with a powerful mix and mastering that is simply ridiculously professional for such a low-profile release. Just listen to the album's standout track, 'SindBat' to get an idea of how great the sound is. Said track itself is impressive too; rarely have Cynic-esque grooves been blended together with traditional Balkan sounds in such a great, effective and utterly logical way. Trey Spruance, eat your heart out!

Unfortunately not every song on this album is as convincing as 'SindBat'. Some of these songs are simply too slick and poppy for their own good. Moreover Xell isn't a particularly gifted vocalist, which is reason enough to prefer the instrumental tracks. Overall the second half of this seven track album is less interesting than the first, causing the listeners' attention to gradually drift away. Notwithstanding this 'The Bulgarian metal blowout powercore 'n' speed up music stalgia' is a very interesting debut.

Rating: 77/100 (details)

<http://www.xellmusic.com>

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