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Is there such a thing as Prog Sleaze?

MAD SYMPHONY is a new group from Vancouver that debuted in May with their self-titled mini album. As a sextet with two guitars plus keyboards, the band has the opportunity to create a full sound and diverse forms of expression. The fact that she assigns herself to progressive rock is a bit surprising. The music is certainly varied and there are interesting changes in rhythms and riffs to be heard. But progressive rock is a big word.

In my opinion, the five songs of "Mad Symphony" are melodic hard rock with catchy refrains. The high, scratchy voice of the singer is reminiscent of the gruesome era of hairspray in Los Angeles, while keys and choirs sound a bit like AOR. To stick with the keyboard instruments: Here, too, MAD SYMPHONY is widely exhibited from organ to synths to keyboards that are more typical of pop. The interplay of guitars and keys is one of the band's strengths and allows them, for example, the strong lead break in 'Do It All Over' or the clear but harmonious change between hard rock and pop rock in 'Next Door'. In addition to the skilful presentation and the well-made arrangements, the troupe managed to create pretty melodies aside from the droning 'Sell Me Out', and that is actually the most important thing in music. The highlight of the disc is definitely 'Bittersweet Bye Bye' at the end, the only piece with a playing time of over five - and at the same time six - minutes. Good solos from guitar and synthesizer, more conspicuous contributions from the shooting gallery and especially the bass guitar are most likely to make this number speak of Prog Rock.

With their mixture of hard rock and AOR, a pinch of prog and the sleaze rock voice, MAD SYMPHONY has a coherent sound to offer, which occasionally sounds like a combination of VAN HALEN with David Lee Roth, 70s JOURNEY and AEROSMITH.