

Robert Haglund - I Wanna Be Somebody (2016)

Written by bluesever

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01 *Ain't No Love In The Heart Of The City* (4:29) (Whitesnake cover) 02 *Enter Sandman* (4:13) (Metallica cover) 03 *Don't Believe a Word* (3:15) (Thin Lizzy cover) 04 *The Price* (4:27) (Twisted Sister cover) 05 *Holy Diver* (4:12) (DIO cover) 06 *Ace of Spades* (2:47) (Motorhead cover) 07 *You Give Love a Bad Name* (3:39) (Bon Jovi cover) 08 *I Wanna Be Somebody* (2:57) (WASP cover) 09 *Love Gun* (4:17) (KISS cover) 10 *Ice Cream Man* (3:22) (Van Halen cover) Robert Haglund (lead vocals) Erik Mjörnell (guitars, bass & strings almost on every track) + Bruce Kulick (guitar on track 02, 03 and 09) Kee Marcello (guitar on track 04) Tommy Denander (guitar on track 05) Andreas Passmark (bass on track 03) Magnus Rosén (bass on track 09) Rudy Sarzo (bass on track 09) Magnus Fritz (drums on track 03 and 06) Fred Coury (drums on track 10) Svante Thuresson (vocals on track 01) Tony Harnell (vocals on track 03) Jan Johansen (vocals on track 10) Jonas Fritzson (backing vocals on track 08) Jacob Huddén (keyboards on track 03) Mikael Renliden (trumpet on track 01, 07 and 10) Jonas Thander (saxophone on track 08 and 10) Swedish Swing Metal Orchestra

Now this is curious stuff; ROBERT HAGLUND's solo debut album "I Wanna Be Somebody". Haglund is a Swedish vocalist better known as one of the The Fantastic Four, a popular Swedish vocal quartet which revisit soul, blues, jazz standards and where he plays bass also. But for his debut Haglund has chosen to cover some hard rock classics in a jazzy mood helped by some well known Rock musicians.

You have Coverdale / Whitesnake staple 'Ain't No Love In The Heart Of The City' done in a very slow mood by Haglund crooner vocals helped by Sweden's most famous jazz singer Svante Thuresson in harmony vocals, obtaining an atmosphere proper from a New York intimate jazz club. Then there's an almost unrecognizable cover of Metallica's 'Enter Sandman' where Bruce Kulick (KISS) provides a great acoustic guitar solo.

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Next it's time for a groovy version of 'Don't Believe a Word' (Thin Lizzy) and it's a highlight because Tony Harnell (ex TNT / Skid Row) sings various verses and his vocals are a-we-some. Additionally Kulick delivers another fantastic solo, this time full electric. It's fun to hear Twisted Sister's 'The Price' done in a ballad form with the presence of Kee Marcello (ex Europe) on guitar, or DIO's 'Holy Diver' going acoustic (!) but it works, believe me.

Other tune which I liked alot is 'You Give Love a Bad Name' (Bon Jovi) as its big-band arrangement fits greatly with the song. Kulick again and Rudy Sarzo (Quiet Riot et al) appear for a very melodic, bluesy take on Kiss' classic 'Love Gun', and for the end Cinderella's drummer Fred Coury collaborate with a rockin' (in this album terms) version of 'Ice Cream Man' (made popular by Van Halen).

It's a lot of fun, and most of these re-arranged classics really work on this format. I'll pass on Motorhead's 'Ace Of Spades', but even with its big-band feeling WASP's 'I Wanna Be Somebody' results enjoyable. This record turns more and more addictive the more you listen to it... I am in the second spin in a row in this rainy morning... Really Cool - Very Recommended ---
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