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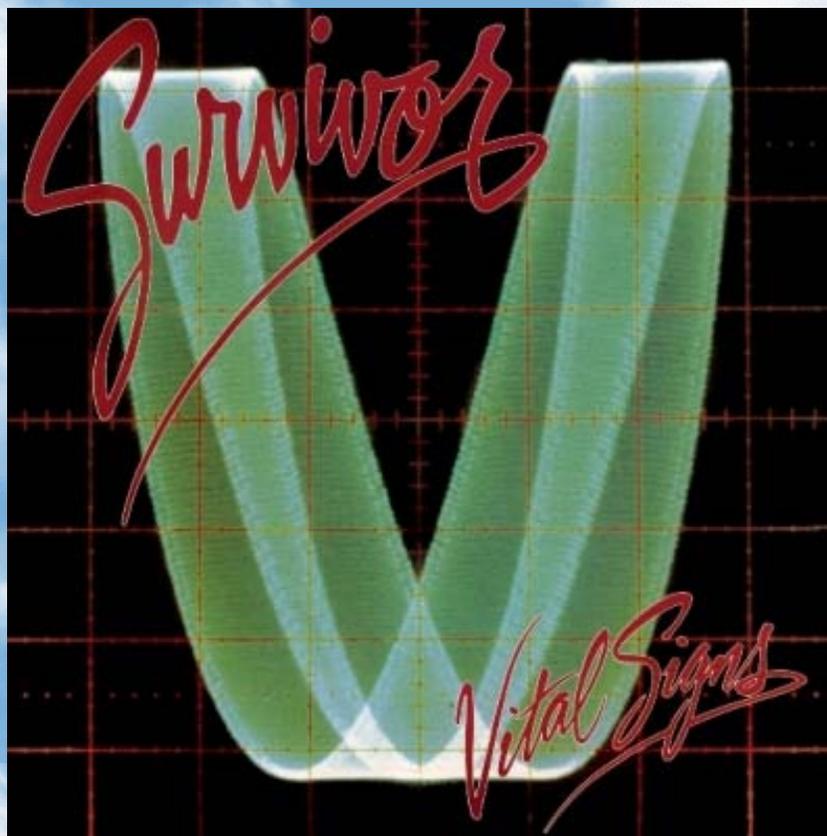
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HOT NEW REVIEWS

UPDATED ON APRIL 1 - 2011



SURVIVOR 'VITAL SIGNS' (ROCK CANDY RECORDS)

Never in my life I would have thought that I would have been a review what I refer to as the finest piece of music history ever in 2011 I do get the opportunity, because the SURVIVOR album 'Vital Signs' has been re-released on CD. Fully remastered in 2010, it's now up to absolute perfection. Originally released in 1984, it's now moving into a slightly different direction, as in more keyboard hooks/chorus wise as picture perfect as possible. Their previous 'Caught in the game' from 1983 didn't deliver the goods, so a few changes were done in order to make a new SURVIVOR record again. First of all, the band switched from lead singer, because JIM BICKLER was replaced by JIMI JAMISON. And secondly it was that RON NEVISON was brought in for the production and this combination turned the SURVIVOR sound into absolute AOR, something that even beat the back then unreachable AOR level of JOURNEY. Everyone who thought that SURVIVOR was only a band popular for their Rocky anthem "Eye of the tiger" should listen to this album, as you will be blown away by the immense high energy of each of the 9 included songs. This re-issue by ROCK CANDY RECORDS is definitely the finest copy one is able to own of the album, because the sound is crystal clear (thanks to the 2010 remastering), there is also 1 bonustrack ("The moment of truth" from the KARATE KID soundtrack). The 16 pages counting CD booklet contains a very interesting essay on the recording of the album, an interview with JIM PETERIK and some great photos. All together a must-have, especially in case you don't own the album at all. Every second on this album is Classic AOR, right from the start with "I can't hold back" until the last few seconds of "I see you in everyone", although the last track is actually bonustrack "The moment

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closing track “Betrayal”, which is a very nice fun uptempo Melodic Rocker with even some VAN HALENish guitarwork and a deadly catchy chorus. Save the best for last is probably something that comes to mind when hearing this song. It’s all a little rough and raw sounding, a clear independent kinda case we have here, but who knows a future release will see the band jump up to a higher level musically and production wise. More at: www.chinsmojo.com

(Points: 7.8 out of 10)

PETER MAYER ‘COLLECTION’ (INDEPENDENT/USA IMPORT)

5 years ago we already reviewed this CD, but 5 new tracks have been added to this re-release. Out of Cincinnati/USA comes multi-instrumentalist/singer PETER MAYER and he is playing typical American Melodic Poprock, early 80s style, kinda like JACK GREEN, TOMMY TUTONE and PHIL SEYMOUR if anyone recalls them. In total 14 songs are now included and some of them are catchy, but it always sounds like a true independent recording, so nothing fancy or big studio sounding stuff here. Just basic American Poprock in the old spirit, very early 80s and with good melodies and some great guitarwork, with as highlights the uptempo “It’s just the energy” (very strong tune), “The downwinders”, “Playing it up” and “The marrying kind” (best song, catchy 80s AOR rocker a la BILLY SQUIER). This is Rock and Roll the way it was made in the USA in the 1980s by artists like CHARLIE SEXTON, JACK GREEN, PHIL SEYMOUR, MICHAEL ZEE and hundreds more. More info at: <http://www.petermayermusic.net>

(Points: 8.0 out of 10)

THE LARCH ‘LARIX AMERICANA’ (DENT RESISTANT/USA IMPORT)

The Brooklyn, USA based band THE LARCH is very much influenced by the early 1980s British New Wave Powerpop style. THE KNACK meets SQUEEZE would be a rather good description for their rather quirky poprock style on the band’s album ‘Larix Americana’. Perhaps nothing new is brought here and in the UK thousands of bands played this kind of music 30 years ago, the recent revival of the genre is making it very popular and trendy, although THE LARCH already played this kind of music 10 years ago. Lyrically speaking it is also very much back-to-quirky late 70s Poprock of the THE SPARKS and THE TUBES kinda way of bizarre lyrics, such as “The strawberry coast”, “Xmas question” and “Space vacation”. These guys could have been huge if it was still 1978! Anyway, if you’re starting to become interested then turn left and go to: www.myspace.com/dentresistant

(Points: 7.7 out of 10)



INTROITUS ‘ELEMENTS’ (PROGRESS RECORDS)

Now this is a nice surprise, because the Swedish band INTROITUS already released a CD back in 2007, but somehow that record completely passed us by. Now in 2011, the band releases a follow-up and without a doubt ‘Elements’ is a very strong album that contains high quality Neo-Progressive Rock meets Classic Rock, with superb melodic guitarwork and excellent vocals by female singer ANNA JOBS BENDER (who sounds like LANA LANE). Her husband MATS BENDER is co-leader (and keyboardplayer) of the band and together they wrote 9 very impressive tracks. The music fits somewhere in the MOSTLY AUTUMN, FLOWER KINGS, GLASS HAMMER and KARNATAKA area, which means quite melodic songs with long instrumental passages that really sound very relaxing, thanks to the beautiful melodies created on both the guitar and keyboard. This is the calmer side of prog, clearly rooted in the classic PINK FLOYD and GENESIS area, so a bit 1970s orientated, but thanks to the crystal clear sound and the very melodic clean accesable female vocals sounding up-to-date. Be sure not

to miss this great album... more at: www.introitus.se