

ANDY SUSEMIHL

'Elevation'
Melodic Rock
SM Noise



I must be totally honest and admit from the outset that I am new to Andy Susemihl's work, but this album, his fifth, will definitely have me checking out his back catalogue. The German guitarist and singer was originally in UDO and Sinner, and here he teams up with Pink Cream 69 members Dennis Ward on bass and

Andy Labelle on drums to deliver a top quality release, full of eleven great tunes and a superb cover of Depeche Mode's '*Personal Jesus*'.

There's a lot of jazz and blues in Susemihl's playing, but he can rock with the best of them, as heard on the first track, '*Sick Of The Rain*', with an excellent solo. '*Aeroplane*' is such a well constructed song and '*Afterworld*' should convince a lot of people to buy this just on the strength of that one song. When he slows the pace on '*Give Me Some Time*', you get to hear his very accomplished vocals and the 'band' are so tight. '*Center Of The Universe*' (his spelling, not mine and it's not the Eagles song) is very bluesy and '*Dinosaurs*' has one of those riffs that you've heard before but just can't put your finger on where. '*Back To The Stars*' and '*Haunt*' are solid pop/rock tracks, before we're treated again to Susemihl's bluesy soloing on '*Something On The Way*'.

Add the autobiographical '*The Golden Coast*' and his song about the state of music today, '*Melophobia*', and you have a release that I thoroughly recommend. Now to check out his other stuff!

POWERPOINTS: ①②③④⑤⑥⑦⑧⑨⑩

TONY HEARE