

Awake – Counter Intelligence

Counter Intelligence, from Ireland, have written an intelligent, inspiring and uplifting song with the recently written Awake. Everybody has experienced tough times recently but like a lot of musicians Counter Intelligence have recorded music during the lockdowns.

Awake starts with a main vocal line accompanied by guitar, playing broken chords, which very quickly is joined by some wonderful vocal harmonies. The depth of the sustained bass line and ‘presumably’ floor toms being played like timpani give an orchestral feel. This certainly gives the song width and open spaces for these harmonies to weave melodies.

This moves into the chorus with a more anthemic feel, an appeal for people to indeed be ‘Awake’. Wonderful vocal harmonies continue, this being I think, another feeling of ‘We’re all in this together’, so we better sing from the same song-sheet.

Awakes middle section sees the Dublin band change style vocally with harmonies becoming more of an accompaniment rather than an almost vocal quartet. This leads back to the chorus and the eventual outro with rhythmic guitar.

Special mention must go to the instruments, the guitar plays simple but highly effective broken chords much like a pianist would do using the sustain pedal, the low depth bass moving on to the punchy bass line which pushes the song and the percussion - there is wonderful variation in the cymbal work moving between the hi-hat and ride cymbals, this greatly enhances the song.

With all the vocal harmonies it would be interesting if someone were to write a choral version of the song – it would be interesting to discover, given the right setting emotional in an uplifting way.

Counter Intelligence are a wonderful band with wonderful arrangements, wonderful use of instrumentation. Hopefully, the wider public will be Awake to them. I certainly am!

Drew Jarvie – The Delerium Trees

Brecon Indie Review Team