

## Red Iris – Arise

Sounding like a rampant early U2, but better, Houston's (USA) Red Iris set a cracking pace on their song 'Arise', on which Emily Glazener's powerful vocal shines.

Red Iris are a band of superb talent, amply shown in this song. Guitars start, being quickly joined by a punchy 4/4 drumkit rhythm accompanied by a quaver driven bass line which is then joined by rhythm guitars. These guys are tight, they are rock tight.

All of this gives Glazener plenty of musical space to weave her melody, a vocal style well suited to this 'stadium genre' music, her delivery clear and punchy, straight to the point. The chorus gives further example of this, aided by the use of some excellent male backing vocal harmonies, the difference in voice texture helping the melody line.

At around the three-minute mark the instrumentation lessens, the speed does not. Simple chords are joined by tom toms, these are the build up to an absolute belter of a guitar solo. Fittingly this continues towards the outro showing just how tight a unit the band is.

Red Iris are not re-inventing anything, they tread a well-trod path and the path they taken is the most important route – you can tell by their music that they enjoy it, love it, clearly shown in their singing and playing.

Furthermore, there are not too many bands around with a vocal presence like Emily Glazeners. The most obvious comparison is Edinburgh's Shirley Manson, formerly of Goodbye Mr. McKenzie now the powerful vocalist for Garbage. Glazener is most definitely in the same league.

'The lamp is rubbed, the genie is owned, telling of our lies finally untold. Opened arms and we are sacrificed, we arise' sings Glazener.

This is a song meant to be played 'live', Red Iris are brilliant, I love their music, hopefully one day I can see them as well.

Wonder if they need a trumpet player.....

Red Iris – Arise – superb!

Drew Jarvie (The Delerium Trees) 25/03/2021

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