

Symphony Of Broken Hearts – Wild Horse

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Symphony, most people picture a large orchestra playing large works by Beethoven, Mahler, Saint-Saens etc, a collage of magical sound, massive chords, memorable melodies and instruments. Including choirs.

Wild Horse treat us to almost, remember the word almost, to almost the exact opposite. 'Symphony Of Broken Hearts' starts with an on-beat bass drum and simple piano chords. This provides the accompaniment for Jack Baldwin's vocal line. As the song moves on the bass enters with a simple but effective quaver rhythm which does indeed move the song on. This is helped by the drums moving to the more conventional bass snare bass snare and an off-beat piano playing notes an octave higher. A good idea this, highlighting the idea of being all alone, think The Police with their song Every Breath You Take.

When the chorus enters, we are greeted with Jack Baldwin's falsetto voice, my old and sadly missed friend Billy McKenzie (of The Associates) would have loved this. Now the reason I said almost earlier on is centred on the backing vocals. When early composers like Purcell or Handel wrote their tremendous choral pieces, they probably had no idea how far their influence would spread. They laid the foundations for Gospel music and that influence is clearly heard in the layered Gospel style backing vocals. This is a tremendous collage of simple instrumentation with a massive choir except it isn't, Wild Horse have layered Jack's vocals, comparable to Queen and the Electric Light Orchestra recordings, perhaps with Henry Baldwin's and Ed Barne's voices mixed in.

Very anthemic almost stadium like as in U2's 'I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For.' Wild Horse certainly, with this song, have created a stadium atmosphere created by the sparseness of instrumentation. Less is often a good thing, there is no need to make a simple song complicated and this is Wild Horse's best trait, it's their style and, why change (to much) they're brilliant as they are.

The title of the song 'Symphony Of Broken Hearts' suggests sadness, broken relationships, longing as in the broken hearts, the mixture of all of these feelings perhaps suggesting many emotions are represented by the instrumental families within an orchestra.

However, Wild Horse have to need to feel sorry for themselves as it says during the song. Jack also sings during the song :

'The highlight of my day'

I loved the small Coda, end section, Jack's glissando ending the song perfectly!

Wild Horse have created many songs that have been a highlight of many a day, Symphony Of Broken Hearts is a welcome addition.