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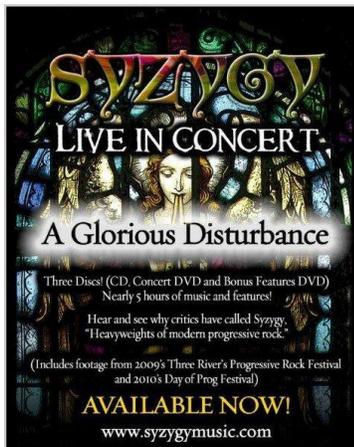
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SYZYGYS A GLORIOUS DISTURBANCE Is a Glorious Prog Rock Collection!

A [SoundPress.net Feature Article](#) by Rich and Laura Lynch



Cleveland, Ohio is the home of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. It's also the city where the sizzling purveyors of modern progressive rock, Syzygy, hail from. The group may be under the mainstream radar, but they have been making waves in the prog community for years. Their last two albums, *The Allegory of Light* and *Realms of Eternity*, both received 16 out of 16 star ratings from *Progression Magazine*.

Late in 2012, Syzygy released *A Glorious Disturbance* a perfectly packaged collection that spans their 30 plus years of creating complex compositions. The set includes a live and a bonus DVD along with a CD that features 9 songs performed in concert. *A Glorious Disturbance* is filled with almost five hours of vibrant and varied material.

The live DVD recorded in 5.1 surround sound showcases Syzygy soaring at the 3RP Festival in 2009 and smoking at the Day of PROG in 2010. The two set lists span Syzygy's career with some instrumental pieces revised to include vocals.

Both concerts are crisp and clean in sound and staging. Various camera angles were utilized for close ups and broad overviews of the band. The video also tells you the name of each song and its source at the start of each piece. Generally, Syzygy's music is a blend of insightful and often spiritual lyrics woven into innovative and intricate arrangements.

At the 3RP Festival, like many in the genre, Syzygy took the stage as classical music was piped in before going full force into a vast and vivid version of "Vanitas" from the *Realms of Eternity* record. Another high point of the 2009 show was "Dreams" that started off slow and subtle before melding into segments that were daunting and dramatic. The tune also traversed a complex sequence of tempo and tones as is often the case in Syzygy's songs. It was followed by M.O.T.H. which we would describe as masterful, original, technical, yet hopeful.

The 2010 concert had different lighting and camera perspectives along with a big screen behind the band to add visual effects to their epic music. The 2010 event was impressive from start to the finish with "The Coronation" and "The Sea" being two of the most potent pieces of the set. "The Coronation" was a prog-rock pageantry of sound and stellar solos that re-told the Biblical tale of the prodigal son.

"The Sea" flowed on complex stanzas that ebbed and flowed on colorful changes that included switches from acoustic and electric guitars in the midst of the song. The DVD closed with two covers including Deep Purple's "Burn" that Syzygy handled with fire combined with furious fret work and rhythms.

The CD was a mix of the songs from the 2009 and 2010 concerts. The bonus DVD has four parts. The first is an in-depth interview with Carl Baldassarre by Michael Heaton (the Minister of Culture for Cleveland Plain Dealer). They chatted about the history of the band and prog-rock's past and current generations.

The second segment is "The Writing of Realms" in which Carl and Sam Giunta go through the CD track by track. They talk about the inspirations behind the songs and in some cases pull apart and put the songs back together to demonstrate the layers. This gave us a great appreciation of how Syzygy and other bands craft music and how much effort and thought goes into the process.

The core four of Syzygy have been working together for many years, but vocalist Mark Boals is a newer member and in his interview (part 3) he shared that performing with Syzygy was "a new frontier for me to explore". The last bonus feature was with the four filmed at a park. The quartet were seen sitting by a lake commenting on their career and the 2009 and 2010 performances. Syzygy also talked about the joy of playing and composing. In closing they mentioned that they were working on new material with enough for two albums so more great music from the band may be available in the near future.

For those who are already fans of Syzygy, A Glorious Disturbance is a compressive set with lots of music and insights from the band. For those who are not familiar with Syzygy, A Glorious Disturbance is an in-depth introduction to this prog-rock group. We at Soundpress.net have been following Syzygy for a few years and believe A Glorious Disturbance is glorious and is their best release to date.



Syzygy is:

Carl Baldassarre - guitars & vox
Sam Giunta - keys
Al Rolik - bass
Paul Mihacevich - drums
Mark Boals - vocals

<http://www.soundpress.net/files-feature-articles/fa-2013-01-15-syzygy.php>