

Bangor Flying Circus □ – Bangor Flying Circus (1969)

Written by bluesever

Monday, 16 September 2019 12:27 -

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1 Violent Man 6:05 2 Come On People 4:02 3 Ode To Sadness 6:02 4 Concerto For Clouds 5:23 5 A Change In Our Lives 3:45 6 Someday I'll Find 4:25 7 Mama Don't You Know (That Your Daughter's Acting Mighty Strange) 3:15 8 In The Woods 4:18 9 Norwegian Wood (This Bird Has Flown) 6:00 David "Hawk" Wolinski - bass, keyboards, vocals Alan De Carlo - guitar, vocals Michael Tegza - drums, percussion

Bangor Flying Circus was a progressive rock trio from Chicago, USA, formed in mid-1967 and breaking up in 1969. It is notable for being formed by members of the Shadows of Knight and H.P. Lovecraft and for being a predecessor band to Madura. Bangor Flying Circus consisted of David "Hawk" Wolinski (bass, keyboards, vocals), Alan DeCarlo (guitar, vocals), and Tom Schiffour (drums), who was replaced in late 1968 by former H.P. Lovecraft member Michael Tegza (drums, percussion). Wolinski and Schiffour had previously been in the Shadows of Knight. They put out one self-titled album in 1969, which peaked at No. 190 on The Billboard 200. After they broke up, Wolinski and DeCarlo formed Madura, while Tegza participated in two reconfigurations of Lovecraft, a successor band to H.P. Lovecraft.

---solidboymusicblog.blogspot.com

Signed by Dunhill, the trio's self-titled 1969, debut teamed them with producer George Badonsky. Musically "Bangor Flying Circus" wasn't anything spectacular. On the positive side, DeCarlo and Wolinski were both decent, if anonymous singers; the trio's performances never less than professional. Unfortunately, with Wolinski writing the majority of material (De Carlo credited with one song), selections such as 'Violent Man', 'A Change In Our Lives' and their gawdawful elevator music instrumental cover of The Beatles' 'Norwegian Wood' reflected a surprisingly pedestrian AOR feel.

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Occasional jazzy touches on tracks like 'In the Woods' and the skat segments in 'Ode To Sadness' and 'Someday I'll Find' didn't help much either. In spite of those shortcomings, well constructed heavy-psych album from a Chicago trio, with meaty guitar riffs and full organ sounds. This kind of music was done to death in the early 70s, but "Bangor Flying Circus" was made in 1969 and it's still fresh and innovative.

The extended use of organ does not make this proto-prog, which continually gets off to an active jazz-rock (especially noticeable on the last track). Interestingly, the bassist, and is responsible for the keyboard at the same time, with these tools, "led by the show." Above all, they are wonderful melodic, but fully disclosed during improvisations. It's a very well balanced album. ---adamus67, solidboymusicblog.blogspot.com

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