

Ecstatic Ecstasy From Audio Françoise



DISCourse

with Bill Polonsky

No matter how you look at them, Soir De Semaine is a party band. It can move a crowd around like no other Yukon band I have seen. They are the masters of group groove.

I think every community needs a groove band to whip us into a state of ecstatic ecstasy.

A band to make us feel our hips and help us out-sensualize each other on the dance floor.

The new album, Toi Du Monde -- You Of The World in rough translation -- is a great summertime treat to listen to. Images of pixies and other gentle types dancing around close to the fire come to mind as I listen here at home.

Hey, I lived on the West Coast for a time ... lots of pixie types on the West Coast.

This group is steeped in French Canadian folk music viewed through a world beat lens all driven with a reggae beat. A true multi cultural experience when committed to disc.

I was pleased to see Soir De Semaine extending vocal elements in some compositions on this album. Through production magic they create near ambient vocal styling that are prevalent in two of my favourites in this collection.

Au-delà and Aliénation both use a vocal rhythm track, giving an interesting atmosphere where applied. Au-delà has a feel of an early 90s grunge song without the racket and Aliénation echoes some of the production coming out of

Québec these days.

I am an ear candy enthusiast, vive bonbon d'oreille (in rough translation).

If you are familiar with the EP Soir De Semaine produced out of Atlin last year, you will notice a few songs such as Les Temps and Chagent re-recorded for this offering. The new versions have all the energy with true digital dynamics, being professionally produced by Jim Holland at Seaweed and Bob Hamilton at Old Crow studios.

A tip of the hat to all studios involved. Having professional studios in the territory gives the artist a direct link to production locally without having to move down south, adding to the risk of having the band not returning. Could this be a green revolution in the form of musical conservation?

Many of these new tunes lean toward the progressive, leaving the three chords behind. If this is the future sound of Soir De Semaine, it has chosen a bright future.

This band is one of the most original Yukon bands. Is it the draw of audio Françoise I enjoy? I do have a few Québec CDs in my collection after all.

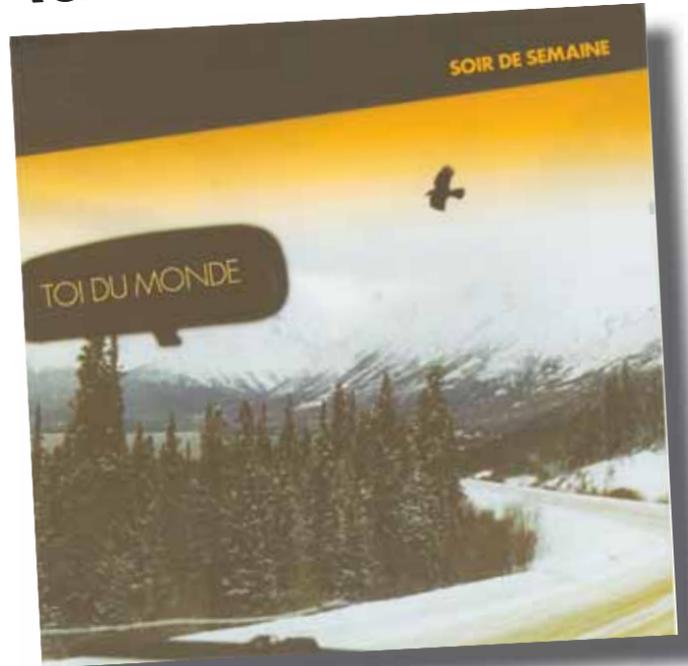
As I have said in past reviews of this group, it is to my deep regret I cannot comment on the lyrics of the songs. C'est ma perte et fardeau pour porter.

Personal linguistic failings aside, Toi Du Monde comes together as it should: easy to enjoy by anyone with a sense of rhythm.

The music is the thing after all.

Toi Du Monde is available at l'Association Franco-Yukonaise, Triple Js and from the band's website at www.soirdesemaine.com.

Bill Polonsky can be contacted at his website, www.strangethingsdone.com.



Soir De Semaine has just released an EP, Toi Du Monde, which will further its reputation as being one of the Yukon's most original bands and "masters of the group groove".

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