

CITADEL[®]

The Citadel of Cynosure
and Other Tales



Review Sampler

These thoughts on **CITADEL®** come to us from various sources commenting on their copy of the release or after experiencing the live show.

"**CITADEL** - All original sci-fi/fantasy progressive rock. What a mouthful, but it best describes this unusual 4-piece group.

Gary Whitman, guitarist and wife, Kiki bass player, share lead vocals and are joined by keyboardist Matt Sachs and drummer Ian Michaels. Together their music and live shows tell a story, soon to be developed into a rock opera on film!

The band has released an album (which is selling out fast) and is available at record stores such as Rockaway Records and Peanuts.

CITADEL was voted "Best of KLOS Local Licks" and has got the labels interested in them. The best advice I have is to go see this group perform live!

Chrissy Cross - CRASH MAGAZINE

"Yes-inspired art-rock with science-fiction leanings... Gary Whitman - guitarist, vocalist, and group mastermind - played with unflagging earnestness... the players are all proficient and pull off the sound they are hoping to achieve, sounds of Rush, Genesis and Gentle Giant... Let's just say that more creativity and energy go into Citadel's work than ever went into Tormato, if that sparks your Tarkus, check 'em out."

C. Crisafulli, BAM

"...band who's self released album, *The Citadel of Cynosure and Other Tales*, is an ELP/Yes-like, Renaissance-styled sci-fi concept album... complete with castles ... synthesizers the whole shebang... sounds good ...enjoy Citadel"

LA Weekly

"...a bona fide concept tape, with a booklet with fancy printing showing the storyline, a rather futuristic one involving spaceships and kingdoms and stuff like that. Obviously a lot of work went into it, and there's all kinds of sound effects and progressive rock...the playing was brilliant...such a ballsy idea...you could follow the storyline and the music perfectly."

A. Marsland, Rock City News

More thoughts from industry folk commenting on the release or the live show, continued from the previous page.

“... most everything I receive is generic, but not this one!”

S. Pross, Island Records

“swell stuff!”

B. Coley, SPIN Underground

“really ambitious album...if they can pull this one off live, I’ll be impressed!”

Joe Benson, KLOS Radio, Los Angeles

“Fantastic concept!”

T. Callahan, Virgin Records

“...the next big thing to hit!...”

B. Rohan, Esq.

“Good musical training obviously...impressive...”

L. Graves, Island Records

“Well developed concept, very ambitious, don’t let LA ruin you.”

R. Woods, Rainforest Records

“What an experience! Listening to the album is like traveling through time - I love it! If you haven’t heard it, you’ve got to hear it...powerful, romantic...”

T. Lewis, KCLA Radio, Hollywood

“...a great concept album, a fantastic achievement, great effects - must see to believe!”

J. Dunbar, KHSU Radio, Humboldt

“A riveting, science-fiction, fantasy saga. Complete with poems and literature and some great illustrations! Thought the concept album was a thing of the past? Not!”

M. Smitco, Guide Wire Radio, Show 410

“Citadel proves once and for all that concept albums are alive and well. This extremely innovative piece is set in the Zion galaxy and deals with the sorrows of a peaceful nomadic race (the Dreemurz) at the hands of the ruthless Affrage pirates. As presented by these four talented musicians it proves to be a thoroughly engaging allegorical experience... Musically, styles vary from beautiful acoustic ballads to searing guitar excursions with not a superfluous note in the lot. An art/lyric booklet is available for those that wish to experience Cynosurian culture to its fullest extent.”

Independent Music Network

“Grand concept albums were the bands of early 70’s progressive Rock, sayeth the critics, with bands like Yes, *ELP* and even *the Who* using their commercial clout to lay out massive conceptual works having more in common with classical opera than with light, fluffy pop Muzak. These works were influential beyond their commercial life, I’ll argue, and yes, I still listen to my old *Rick Wakeman* albums.

Which is why I’m glad I discovered Citadel. *The Citadel of Cynosure* is an epic musical collection, sci-fi/fantasy opera chock full of obscure, poetic lyrics, hidden mythologies, soaring synthesizers and ringing guitars. The creation of Gary and Kiki Whitman, Citadel, with this impressive work, spins a multi-hued tapestry of sound and magic, drawing the listener into another reality...ah, the music is truly magnificent.”

K. Gordon, The Metro Magazine, Music City USA

This review came all the way from Russia

To be sincere, this product was quite a surprise for me. In their debut CITADEL has successfully set up an atmosphere of (the) seventies. During (the) past ten years I couldn't come across nobody who made that kind of progressive-conceptual music.

As it's characteristic feature to (the) 70's, (these) musicians give the priority to the music, trying to make the lyrics as a sort of...romantic fairy-tales. The music attracts attention not only by strict-followed traditions of progressive rock but by alluring melodic structure and freshness. The album contains one very impressive super-hit "Dungeons of War"... surely would come to the top of the charts and also several (other) hits constructing (this) amusingly composed ballad-suite...

No doubt, dominating guitar draws together CITADEL and WISHBONE ASH, particularly in ASH's early years. However, due to Gary Whitman's guitar work this opus acquires its expressiveness and gloss.

Nevertheless Gary's contribution doesn't confine itself to guitar. Gary is singer - very sensual and peculiar... Besides that Gary is author of lyrics and artwork. Such "versatility" brings together Gary to "man-orchestra" Mike Olefield, whose influence you can feel in this album too.

...Altogether, the album is unique...and it can please those, whose favorites are among progressive.

*P. Korolenko
TIF No. 15, Russia*

This review of CITADEL® came to us from i.e Magazine

Citadel puts the Rock into Progrock

Citadel is a very ambitious, California based progressive quartet that blends megadoses of burning electric guitar with majestic keyboards and a decidedly environmentally-aware lyrical stance. The band's first album, *The Citadel of Cynosure and Other Tales*, originally pressed in a limited edition on clear vinyl is now available on CD.

You may recall when CDs first came out that manufacturers cautioned consumers to chill a little on the volume for fear of speaker damage from the increased range and fidelity of the compact disc format. Well, this is the kind of disc they were talking about. The recording is crisp and the high registers in which most of the guitar solos reside are mixed loud enough to set your tweeters twitching and your woofers wobbling.

Describing their music is difficult to do succinctly. I guess you would start with *Rush* as a reference point for overall dynamics and long, sci-fi suites. But Citadel is far more keyboard-savvy, and the bass pops more, so let's toss in some *Yes*. The combination of male/female vocals also recalls their northern California counterparts, *Episode*. But to be fair to the band, Citadel is a concept unto itself and its driving force, singer/guitarist Gary Whitman, is something of a progressive renaissance man. Not only does he compose most of the music, play stellar guitar and sing the allegorical stories he co-writes with his wife, Kiki, he also produces the recordings, creates the album cover artwork and related lettering and graphics, manages the band; and directs the marketing and promotion for the group.

The artwork I'd describe best as *faux Roger Dean*, the same description I gave for *Holding Pattern's* album cover a couple issues ago. There's a logic to this: Whitman drew both. While he loses points for originality, he obviously possess great talent and technique and if Dean has explored this territory already, Whitman seems very capable of developing a unique vision of his own... The fact that the band is so self-contained seems to work well in terms of quality control, and the quasi-socialist organization of the band fits in well with their liberal political views, which, on the record (literally), include espousal of wind and solar energy, conservation, and human rights.

(continues on next page)

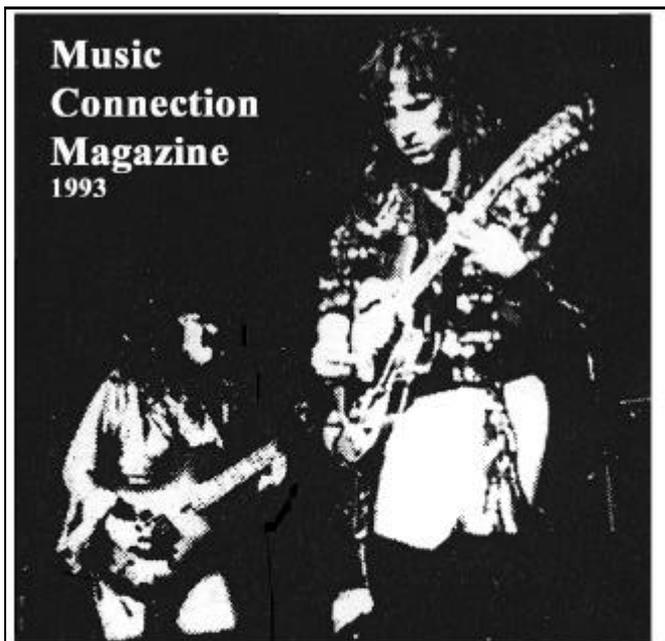
The main piece on the album is "*The Citadel of Cynosure*," a 10-part suite that for some reason, is split into 5 tracks on the CD. In a nutshell, the story is about the Dreemurz, a peaceful, group of space nomads who cruise through the Zion Galaxy, and who have a nasty encounter with the invading Affrage Space Pirates. The vocals, while far more than competently delivered, are nevertheless obscured so much in the mix that the story itself is hard to follow.

It would be difficult, if not impossible, however, to miss out on the instrumental prowess of Whitman & Sachs... Appropriate sound effects add to the mix (and the volume), creating a sensory bombardment. Apparently, the original album release included an extensive libretto of Lyrics, artwork, and other material. The CD has but a two-sided card, not even a booklet.

The "*Other Tales*" include the cranking "*Winter's Dying*," a nice track called "*Savior*," the much quieter "*Stygian Barque*" (featuring a string quartet), "*Prey to Destiny*," and a good closer, "*Standing Alone*." The disc has a lot of music and the music has a lot of energy. The playing, for the most part, is hard and fast, with the kind of intense emotional and spiritual combustion that critics of *Yes* and *ELP* used to call "bombast."

In summary, those who especially love progressive music that creates huge, powerful sonic impressions with wild, extroverted musicianship will find this release to be a treasure. Just take care with your speakers.

The Citadel of Cynosure and Other Tales is available from mail order outlets that specialize in independent progressive releases. For more info, contact *W.E.-Whitman Enterprises*, POB 4032, Burbank, CA 91503-4032, email at: CIADEL_1@msn.com or at citadel.to



PROGRESSIVE SHOW: Pictured performing at UCLA's Royce Hall during the recent Progfest '93 are Gary & Kiki Whitman of progressive rock band Citadel, one of two U.S. bands to grace the Progfest bill. Co-sponsored by Music Connection and Apogee Sound (among others), Progfest '93 offered enough tricky time signatures, instrumental prowess, moog/mellotron fills and heady lyrics to please anyone weaned on such Seventies prog-rock pioneers as Yes, Genesis and ELP. Rounding out the international lineup of progressive performers were Anglagard (Sweden), Quill (U.S.) and IQ (UK).

This review appeared in *Music Connection* mag following Progfest 93 which Citadel created, managed, financed and opened at UCLA's Royce Hall. Gary and Progfest (PMA, Inc.) partners received many reviews in *Keyboard Magazine*, *Billboard*, *Amusement Business*, etc. PF93 was Citadel's last performance, Progfest continues yearly.

This review comes to us from the kind folks at *Harmonie Magazine* in France, and included the CD band photo.

God is no longer popular... In our society, full of materialism and hard facts, there is no longer room for spirituality nor for dreams. Our generation cultivates obsessive neurosis as a guarantee of complete efficiency. God? No time! But then, does he even exist? Dreams? No time for that, either! In such a context, reality inevitably surpasses everything.

Signs of the times that, even the artistic world - music in particular - has been over-run by this philosophy of severity and realism that encompasses everything like cancer slowly spreading throughout the body. Try to put a little Art, a little dreaming into your music, and they will banish you! Try to open up your music to spirituality, and you will only hear snickering and jeers. . .

Well, there are some who have understood absolutely none of this. Citadel, for example, this Californian group is completely oblivious: they talk about God, they present themselves as the defender of dreams, and they play progressive rock! But note that what kind of "Prog" isn't important. What's nice about Americans is that, given the evidence, the problem of being commercial is least of their worries... So, there are no after-thoughts on their albums and no concessions, either. They simply play whatever they feel like playing.

This musical innocence, which Citadel characterizes, develops on their album entitled "The Citadel of Cynosure." Citadel's sound is full of guitars. They are at every turn: cavalcades ("Winter's Dying"), energetic chords ("Dungeons of War"), furious solos, classical, acoustic and electric. The guitar starts the songs, it accompanies them in the background ("Stygian Barque") and it leads the breaks ("Winter's Dying"); a real guitar fest ... and also note, the presence of the organ and of the good old Moog . . . "

It is true that our good Mr. Whitman has strong points of worth, both in the ease of paying homage to Yes ("Firemines of Nephtho") as well as with speed exercises ("Prey to Destiny,") or in the unexpected but welcomed solo ("Saviour"); a strange mixture of fire, substance and conciseness.

But in reality, Citadel's charm is found elsewhere... It is perhaps also a melodic scheme in which the group ably reconciles finesse with a very catchy side (one thinks of Styx at times), a very direct side. It depends above all on the sound that owes, more often than you think, to the softness of the keyboards, and to the rather delicate touches. This lightness therefore, goes together with the verve and speed... It is also true that this airy side of the music is born, at its base, of the speed of the musical developments, introduced and used in moderation, as if in passing.

This album — which reconciles energy and lightness, a 70's feel (in the keyboards and singing) and guitaristic violence — is a bit of an encounter with Renaissance and Relf and Trevor Rabin, all thrown into a space-opera musical project in the Yes vein, filled with mysticism and spirituality.

The masterpiece is the 25 minute title track, “The Citadel of Cynosure,” filled with the “heroic fantasy” that was so dear to Jon Anderson. This vast conceptual “fresco,” a cross between “Star Wars” and “Olias of Sunhillow,” tells the story of a peaceful people (the “Dreemurz”) pitilessly tracked down in the heart of an imaginary galaxy: Zion. This fantastic theme constitutes the basis of a philosophical reflection on the condition of modern man who stifles his introspective potential (“Dreemurz” = “Dreamers”) in order to better develop his efficiency within a material context. One can also see in it an allegory of the continuing struggle between Good and Evil. Each person will find in the hefty booklet that comes with the CD something to nourish his own thoughts.

Besides this large work are five short pieces that reveal the spiritual convictions of the Whitmans...it is difficult to know to which religious congregation Citadel belongs. But one thing is for sure, they believe in God. Take, for example, “Savior.” The words of this piece, in just a few lines, summarizes perfectly the essential message of the four Gospels, indeed of the entire New Testament. It is also proof that God doesn't necessarily require backward and feeble musical ponderings! “Prey to Destiny” is another affirmation of the group's Faith: “Cause God knows how to help us be strong, he's gonna keep us moving along . . .” “Stygian Barque” is an echo of “Citadel of Cynosure” since it affirms that dreams are a reflection of reality. As for “Winter's Dying,” it develops, in fact, Citadel's musical ethic: “Spirit's flying high! While melodies are bought and sold”; a track that talks of the difficulty of pursuing a musical dream, but affirms that it is a question of choice!

This work, whose cover is very reminiscent to that of “Relayer” — which, is not the only Yes-ian connection — is dedicated to all the Dreemurz, everywhere. If you feel you are worthy of this denomination, this CD is for you . . . It's your choice . . .

HARMONIE MAGAZINE, France

Philippe Arnaud, Bertrand Pourcheron, Philippe Gnana

**We are pleased to present these reviews of
CITADEL®'s debut from the world over.**

“The Citadel of Cynosure and Other Tales,”

released by Whitman Enterprises (WE) on:

Clear Vinyl LP (WER1RUI2?)

Digitally Remastered CD (WE12CDITY)

High-Bias Cassette (CrO₂) (WE12CUB1)

with accompanying **Lyric Novelette** (WENOU12B1)

has received local and international acclaim.

We'd like to be able to include all of the reviews we have received, but due to limited space, we have included those which we believe best represent the general opinions that continue to honor us.

**For overseas reviews,
we have provided an English translation.**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have graced us with reviews of our work and all of those who have taken the time to experience our art.

*Citadel: The Citadel of Cynosure and Other Tales, Selected Reviews, c.1997-99 WE/Citadel
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CITADEL, c/o WE, 1000A Clark Ave., CA 91506