

DPRP

Built for the Future - Chasing Light



Track List:

Arrive (6:01), Radiowave (4:47), Lightchaser (4:55), Speed of the Climb (5:39), Build for the Future (4:53), Burning Daylight (3:07), Walls (4:46), Running Man (7:02), The Siren Will (5:13), Staring at the Sun (6:27), Samsara (5:55), The Great Escape (12:38)

Built for the Future is a new prog band that originates from San Antonio, Texas. In reality it is less of a band and more of a collaboration between multi-instrumentalist Patric Farrell and vocalist Kenny Everett. They also receive able assistance from guitarists, Dave Pena and Chris Benjamin. Publicity for this, their debut album, speaks of bands like **Rush**, **Genesis**, **Yes** and **Tears for Fears** as influences.

The admiration for these bands is very apparent, as *Chasing Light* displays a sound and style that is very reflective of the more accessible progressive rock of the 80s. You will also hear flashes of more modern prog bands, as well as an occasional **Beatles** vibe. None of this is to imply that this album is just a pointless exercise in imitation, but the band certainly doesn't hide its fondness for their influences.

Though at times it is apparent that this is not the work of a full band, Farrell does an excellent job of hiding that fact. A significantly talented musician, there seems to be no discrepancy between his ability to play the drums, bass and keyboards. Musically, this is quite the showcase for him and he certainly proves to be up to the challenge. That is no slight on Everett, as his vocals are the glue here. When a band is touting the influences noted above, the vocals need to measure up, and thankfully Everett's do.

Though the 80s era of prog alienates some fans, I have never been one of them. The meshing of classic prog with a more accessible sound and structure can be very appealing. *Built for the Future* utilises that template and does so quite well. The catchy choruses are here and the duo often packs a lot of progressive punch into four to seven minutes.

For good measure, the album closer, *The Great Escape* is a twelve-minute epic that justifies its length appropriately. Though Farrell and Everett aren't necessarily turning over many new stones on *Chasing Light*, it doesn't deflect from the listener's enjoyment. The album displays a reflection of the past, that is sentimental and still sounds mostly fresh. Overall, this is a really fun listen from beginning to end.

There are definite highlight tracks, such as the album opener, the well-titled, *Arrive*, the Yes influenced *Running Man*, the majestic and fun *Samsara*, and the previously mentioned, *The Great Escape*.

After knowing each other for many years, Farrell and Everett only recently began making music together. This album is indeed a good start. The band's name speaks to forging forward, and that is exciting. As the duo finds a larger audience, it would be great to see their own distinct musical voices become a bit more pronounced. *Chasing Light* is an entertaining and respectful nod to the past, but it seems that there is enough talent here to make a bit more of their own musical statement moving forward. All things considered though, this release stands as an impressive debut for this new progressive rock duo.

[show video](#)

Conclusion:

Patrick McAfee: 7.5 out of 10