

On My Way' and 'Nothing Worth Losing You'). 'So Excited' and 'Let it Shine' are the mid-tempo tracks. Great songs, great hooks and full of vocal harmonies – what's not to like? Some of these songs would lend themselves brilliantly to the full electric treatment and it would be great to see them performed live on stage.

Comparisons have been made previously between the styles of Johnny Lima and Jon Bon Jovi, but, in my opinion, Bon Jovi hasn't produced anything of note for years and could only hope to release an album of this quality. Definitely worth taking the chance on this release as the quality of the songs shows through. As the man says – "Let It Shine".

Chris Mee

JONO
'SILENCE'
(Independent)
ROCK

Quite what the Swedes have been putting in their water in recent years is anyone's guess judging by the amount of great music emanating from there. To add to the growing list of top notch Melodic Rock/AOR bands to come out of Sweden are Jono, a five-piece led by Johan Norrby, and featuring Within Temptation's Stefan Helleblad on guitar. 'Silence' is their third album and sees the band progressing very nicely with a sound akin to the early pomp and circumstance of seventies Queen with a dash of Kansas-like Symphonic Prog thrown in for good measure.

Dominated by the semi-Operatic vocals of Norrby and expansive song arrangements, anyone with a yearning for the sounds of early Queen again need look no further than this album with its blend of Rock, balladry and, on occasions, downright quirkiness.

From opener 'Man Of Misery' through to the final, delicate track 'Josefina', the quality barely lets up.

Songs such as 'Wasting Time' and 'Turn Around' really do plough that early Queen furrow, whilst still maintaining the band's own identity, whereas other parts of the album call upon the Prog/AOR mix that Kansas hit pay-dirt with back in the seventies. The centrepiece of the whole she-bang is the appropriately titled 'Opus', and clocking in at just over seven minutes it really does live up to its name. Moving statesman-like through various movements and complete with a stunning solo from Helleblad, 'Opus' calls upon all of the aspects that are needed for an epic; a slow, dramatic beginning, building slowly then exploding into life before finishing off as it started, very quietly and serenely... sound familiar to anyone?

Having made reference to certain bands and the seventies, I'm not saying that this album sounds dated at all, in fact quite the opposite. With its rich, effective blend of muscle and melody and a big, luxurious production befitting such bombastic music, this is an album very much for today. All in all, a tremendous album, not an "easy listen" by any means but one that demands repeated plays to discover all the deep underlying nuances contained within; definitely one of the most intriguing releases of these past twelve months.

Malcolm Smith

KIAMA
'SIGN OF IV'
(Tigermoth)
PROGRESSIVE

In this era of "super-groups" here's another good one for our delectation. Featuring Andy Edwards (Frost*/IQ), Luke