

## Redlightmusic - 'Redlightmusic' (2004) Digital Musicworks International



OK, I'll get the obvious aspect out the way first, this is mega selling ex-Candlebox lead guitarist/songwriter Peter Klett's new band Redlightmusic with a self-titled debut album of strapping, mainstream rock cuts. And knock me sideways if the opening two tracks 'Say it Again' and 'Fade Away' are great pieces of catchy rock that I would certainly not switch over if I heard on the radio. Redlightmusic is more than just one person who was a big part of the post-grunge scene a decade ago, Tom Woo (Guitar), Keith Ryland (Drums) and Jason T. Phraner (Bass) lay down first-rate support, never straying into over-indulgence or unnecessary guitar posturing. Tight and non-flashy, the guitars are heavy yet still appropriate for national radio playlists, the drums pound away with some creative fills and tribal influences in certain places.

The band's history involves Tommy Woo and Jason T. Phraner playing together in a band called The New Digs, a band that showed potential but never quite making it. After some networking, Tommy was introduced to Peter Klett through a mutual friend and Redlightmusic was formed. History lesson over, as with many American acts geared towards rock radio (Hoobastank come to mind) there is a distinct lack of diversity, the songs sounding remarkably similar to each other with standouts due to a slight increase in quality rather than anything else. Klett's voice hits the same notes with the same dynamic range, but let's not brush over the fact Klett has a voice very integral with music that's very listenable, like Chris Martin from Coldplay fronting an American rock band. As Klett was not the singer in Candlebox, taking vocal duties was a brave move which pays off. The tempo does slow down on the rock-ballad 'A Cigarette' which shows great restraint and pose. The pace quickens immediately on the following 'In The End' which is not a Linkin Park cover but a riff-driven up-tempo and deeply melodic offering. Closer 'My Friend' is acoustic based and turns out to be a very striking song, which does come close to Coldplay territory and not just because of Klett's voice, all lovely strings and yearning which the band should explore more often.

Final thoughts; you can't fault the professionalism, which was never in doubt with the parties concerned and promotional campaigning involved. You can't fault the production or quality of songs, especially main single 'Say It Again' which deserves to be a hit and 'Redlightmusic' does stray out of generic American mainstream rock on several occasions which gives me hope that modern US rock can endeavour new ideas and get out of it's uncreative slumber.

To find out more visit <http://www.redlightmusic.net>