Mozart is no Queen of the crop

MOZART ★ 1/2

GROUP: Mozart LABEL: Bachoven Musicwerks

By Jake Berg

Mozart is a band with an interesting story to tell.

After signing reportedly one of the largest deals in recent memory two-and-a-half years ago, the band was dropped after its label merged with another company.

Present day: the group released its self-titled debut album on its own label Sept. 1, the anniversary of the death of renowned composer and group-namesake Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

But that's about as interesting as it gets — Mozart (the band, that is) should have stayed dropped.

We've heard it all before, particularly in the music of Queen. Call it opera rock, call it orchestrated, call it whatever you want, it still sounds the same.

Styx, among many other groups, tried ripping off the Freddie Mercury-Brian May influenced sound of Queen, and they couldn't do it well, either. Maybe such music is better left alone, or maybe other groups have more talent than Mozart.

The third and fifth tracks, "Romance O'Blu" and "Hope and Glory," are perfect examples of Queen clones - classic piano melody, light drums and a ripping guitar intro that reminds one of May's solo during "We Will Rock You."

Chorus vocals on both songs



Mozart's self-titled debut album lives up to no one's expectations.

(actually, on most of the album's songs) bring to mind Queen's cocky, sugarcoated "We are the Champions.

Other tunes such as "Speed Train" sound no different than Queen's "Stone Cold Crazy," a song that was done even better by Metallica.

Some of the tracks sound more like they belong on albums from Queensryche or Bonham, two groups that have at least twisted around the "operatic" rock sound enough to make it fairly original.

One good thing to say about Mozart, though, is that for Queen fans hungry for more, this is about as good (close) as it gets. Mozart does a finer job with the sound than does Brian May. whose new group does little more than pound out the standard wimpy, love song-dominated hard rock of today.

So save your money - or better yet, buy the real thing on any old Queen album.

Or buy the real Mozart - even he's more entertaining, and certainly more original.



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