



Reviewed by: Lee Callaghan

November 30, 2021

Bending the line of genre classifications, The William Deuel Band is proving once again there is a fine line between Rock, Pop, Blues, and Country with their latest release **Moment In Time**. Released in August of 2021, this eight-song offering showcases intricate guitar melodies, vocal harmonies, and a gritty lyrical approach to the Americana sound. Spearheaded by William Deuel on vocals and rhythm/lead guitars this collaborative effort with talented, professional, veterans of the music scene makes **Moment In Time** a worthy addition to your Saturday night party playlist. Borrowing themes of love, trust, deception, and regret, **Moment In Time** blends rich lyrical metaphors with vibrant imagery to create narrative listeners can relate and empathize with. These dynamic lyrical forms entertain the listener while challenging them, as William Deuel is apt to throw in some tense and galvanic one-off lines which may not be quite absorbed on the first listen through the album. Incorporating edgy guitar tones over bluesy grooves elicits a foot-tapping, head-nodding reaction in every audience.

The opening track from **Moment In Time** is *I'm With Her*, a nostalgic track with a feel of seventies roots power pop. With choppy guitar rhythms, *I'm With Her* has a staccato feel which, at high volumes, plays with the listener's pulse and creates a tension that is only resolved with the finality of the chorus. This set-up leads into a-rockin' jam which William Deuel is able to explore many facets of the subject matter and get into the vibe of the rest of the album. "All of the things that we say and do, earned our stripes, don't you think, so too, baby this could be so divine." What I like here on this track is the way drummer, Chris Reed Jr. keeps the upper register filled with his syncopated high-hat fills, as the rest of the band continues with their start/stop rhythms. These cymbal hits keep the song grounded, and the time kept so the listener remains connected with the theme of the track.

Rearview is a clever track that really explores the use of imagery and metaphor. Here is a song of reflection, aptly called *Rearview*, as our vocalist is looking back on what he is leaving behind, with sorrow, regret, and absolution as he stands by his intentions and decisions. "Looking for it, yeah, making the most of it, baby, even if it's only there for a little while, I miss so many friends these days, all I can say is maybe, you catch me staring at the rearview once in a while. *Rearview* also features a smart use of silence, as each section of the track comes to an abrupt halt before the band picks back up again. I am not sure if this is intentional, but this stoppage allows the listener to also reflect on past mistakes and future convictions.

The standout track, in this reviewer's opinion, however, is *Lie With Me*. I really enjoy how William Deuel shapes his verses, with each cadence offering a minor tension which he encapsulates into a resolve at each lyrical phrase. Listeners should also pay attention here to the bass, provided by either Jason Brown or Ethan Henderson, as they were both present on this album. The tight in-the-pocket groove the bass hits in the pre-choruses allows the pedal tones of the infectious chorus to really maximize its impact, making this track my pick for a single release.

Although reviewing all eight tracks is outside the scope of this review, other standout tracks include; *Ballroom Bananas* with its Southern Rock vibe, *Back To Me* a Country-inspired ballad, brimming with

The William Deuel Band – Moment In Time

Evolution Music Press



passion in an emotional performance, and title-track, *Moment In Time*, a visceral, gritty, and rhythmic track which also highlights how tight the William Deuel Band really is. **Moment In Time** offers something for a vast audience. It has elements that would be ideal for commercial Pop, Rock, Blues, and Country radio stations. As a follow-up to the 2019 EP release; **Whaddaya Say**, **Moment In Time** shows growth, maturity, and professionalism in lyric writing and song structures. The production is very well-executed as each frequency has its place within the listening spectrum, yet blended smoothly and crisp. The allotted headroom in the mix allows this rockin' album to be cranked up at loud volumes without digital clipping and muddling of the overtones. **Moment In Time** is a very enjoyable album, ideal for those good times, which as we move forward in our present state of affairs, comes in very handy for these times to come.