

KINESIS

After hearing the band 5bridges, we didn't expect to learn of another Dutch band playing classic progressive rock so soon, since for the past 20+ years, Dutch prog bands have taken their cues from Marillion or, more recently, metal bands. *Excavations of the Mind* (2010) is the debut for Sky Architect, a quintet of relatively young Dutch musicians including three from a Rotterdam conservatory. They come right out and state that they are interested in reviving the symphonic progressive style of the 1970's. While 5bridges are more Genesis-influenced, Sky Architect are a bit harder-edged, a bit darker, quirkiest and more technical. Maybe more original too, because beyond a vague sense of King Crimson or Gentle Giant, they don't really call to mind specific bands. There are lots of vintage keys including Mellotron. It would have been nice to hear some suggestion of Focus, Kayak, Supersister, Trace, Finch, or any other Dutch 70's progressive rock instead of only British influences, but it's common today to find young European progressive rock musicians who are unaware of their own heritage. (So is it any wonder music is more homogenized now?) Nevertheless, this is a very promising debut by a band who've gone back far enough in their listening to find the real, undiluted prog. Mark Wilkinson created the CD artwork. Note drummer and backing vocalist Christiaan Bruin is the guy responsible for the Chris - *A Glimpse Inside* CD released by Musea.