

Flagship The Electric Man

Indie rock duo Flagship set out on a mission to make music that stirs up feelings, creates an atmospheric vibe, and makes you feel an array of emotions amidst a moving soundscape of timeless rock and roll.

While that mission has been accomplished on the Charlotte, North Carolina-based band's previous releases, it comes to fruition even more intensely on the band's second full-length album, *The Electric Man*, on Bright Antenna Records.

The album, which was produced by Beck's longtime drummer Joey Waronker (Brandon Flowers, Yeasayer, Atoms for Peace, Air), finds singer/guitarist Drake Margolnick and drummer Michael Finster taking listeners on a journey from light into darkness and back again.

"Making people really feel something when they listen to our songs has always been important to us," explains Finster. "I don't think of music in terms of a lyric or a note or a beat. It's more about the feeling it conveys, whether it's absolute joy or that kind of feeling you can't quite put your finger on. I love it when a song can take me somewhere, and I think we achieved that on this album more than ever before."

Reaching new emotional depths through a few life-changing events over the past year, the 12-track album delivers atmospheric rock with passionate vocals, pop-minded melodies, rapturous orchestral soundscapes, and themes that run the gamut from love and loss to fear and despair to hope and happiness. Several songs, including the album's title track, were inspired by the death of their close friend and former band member, Grant Harding, in 2015.

There are also songs about past and future romantic relationships, such as the first single from *The Electric Man*, "Mexican Jackpot", which was written with frequent collaborator Leo Solis. "It's about two people – the verses are about my imaginary dream girl that I'd like to hang out with, and the chorus is about someone I'm really pissed off at. I like the contrast between the verse and the chorus," Drake says.

The Electric Man marks the first full-length Flagship release as a duo. The band's first full-length album came out when they were a full band featuring the aforementioned Grant Harding (keys), along with Matthew Padgett (guitar) and Chris Comfort (bass). When Harding and Comfort decided to leave the band, Margolnick and Finster made the courageous decision to become a duo and released their first EP, *Faded*, in 2015, featuring "I Want You," which reached No. 20 on Hype Machine.

The band released their debut EP, *blackbush*, on Bright Antenna in 2012 followed by a self-titled full-length in 2013, which was produced by Ben Allen (Animal Collective, Washed Out). "Life Underwater" from *Flagship* reached No. 17 on Sirius XM AltNation and has also garnered nearly 2 million plays on Spotify and 200,000+ views on YouTube.

MTV gave Flagship Buzzworthy nods in 2013, and they've been featured in *Billboard*, *Nylon*, *Filter*, *American Songwriter*, *FMBQ*, and others. *Filter* called them "immediately captivating and unique, largely due to the impressive vocals by singer/songwriter Drake Margolnick." *EARMILK* said they are "quickly establishing themselves as a band with an eloquent and emotionally stirring sound."

With *The Electric Man*, Flagship set out to create a timeless sounding record that would capture the emotions and dynamics of the songs. Another mission accomplished.