

# Mick's mix - it's SuperHeavy!

*So here it is. Recorded in May earlier this year and extracted from hours of serious music-making featuring Rock players, royal Reggae offspring, impressive Indian influences & a touch of Stone's Soul. It's SuperHeavy of course, with Mick Jagger & Dave Stewart who also produce, songstress Joss Stone, Indian composer A.R. Rahman and son of Bob, Damian Marley. Creatively, with so many musical back grounds from different eras as well as countries, the SuperHeavy project must've been a bit of a tightrope walk for some of the members involved. But, as Mick pointed out, egos were switched off to bring together the musics of the world in one big Bhangra-Rock-Reggae-Celtic-cum-Soul fest that will rock your world....or will it?*

*After a first-off listen, just when I decided that any given professional Bhangra, wintered African rhythm section or old skool Reggae outfit could have ticked every single box on this musical sojourn, Mick's harmonica kicks in on track 4 at 2:07 and it makes me sit up and reassess the SuperHeavy situation fully on my CD player. Oooh, Mick you did it again! And listening more closely, you too could be pleasantly surprised by SuperHeavy's one-off output even though there are a couple of flaws with the band falling into a cliché trap here 'n' there...*

**Superheavy** serves very much like an introduction to the project as in: look we're here, and these are our musical tricks. It sounds like an introduction to a circus troupe...or a carnival. **Unbelievable** and **Miracle Worker**, the latter being the single, continue this showcase of blending, twisting & turning and generally showing off the musical acrobacy that SuperHeavy professes to produce. At times it works nicely with a catchy chorus or fetching rhythm but too often one wonders whether better tunes can be found on a South London local radio station playing obscure tunes gone past.

**Energy** continues this seeming lack of novelty starting off with yet again a rap until Joss Stone takes the chorus up and up, together with Mick after the second verse to Rock/Soul-dizzy heights and then gets halted by an echoing guitar riff, rolling drums and said harmonica blasting in. Now we're rocking...

**Satyameva Jayathe** has a refreshing feel with some peaceful chants starting off before going into a bit of a Bhangra/Latino/Reggae fuelled flurry and -believe it or not- via an '80s power Rock

guitar solo into Celtic fiddle and back to the chorus. Needless to say, a track like this is a reviewers' nightmare.... And does it work? I guess that's the problem as on this occasion SuperHeavy will have you scratching your head wondering whether they actually did put **those** elements together???

**One Day One Night** thankfully is a bit more straightforward sticking to an overall more Bluesy feel with of course Reggae and Indian sounds seeping in from right round the SuperHeavy corner. Mick is laying down some impressive vocals here - one of the highlights.

We're halfway through the album and **Never Gonna Change** has Mick kicking off in classic ballad-style a la *Party Doll* and yes, that good old Celtic feel comes fiddling in against a conventional acoustic back drop. Wot....no other influences popping up? No...this time, almost refreshingly, no other guests at this party round the Gaelic camp fire, just some champion Mick balladeering. A conventional classic all around!

Then it's Calypso Reggae Dance Hall time with **Beautiful People** and Mick yet again tackling the vocals on top form - the man's on a roll! And he's proving to work particularly well alongside, and interacting with Joss's pleading vocal style. Great Reggae guitar solo with seductive keys worthy of the Wailers.

**Rock Me Gently** rocks on gently and intensely Reggae-style with raspy Marley vocals reminiscent of the late great Bob courtesy of Damian of course..."oooh yeah!" Again, Joss Stone hits the right note on many an occasion. Mick stays very much in the back ground on this one.

Even though **I Can't Take It No More** is far from peaceful, it seems the initial SuperHeavy wave has passed its crest of odd musical mayhem from track 6 onwards. The at times nigh-impossible tunes of turmoil have by now well given way to well, let's say more conventional bodies of work.

**I Don't Mind** keeps it together like a stroll on the beach as violins blend beautifully into Reggae bass 'n' drums lines whilst keyboards take turns sounding either like Hammond or harp. No Art house escapades in this mix so it works just nicely with Dave Stewart allowing a wink to the Eurythmics' *Sweet Dreams* in the vocals towards the end.

And so the strings keep stirring introducing the grand finale, **World Keeps Turning** with Joss Stone coming in confidently leading into a Gospel Choir-style, Mick-led lament: "*Let your heart stay strong*". Sounds like we should be in the Albert Hall at the Prince's Trust....or at the X Factor with a would-be Adele... Not a worthy closure of a very interesting musical journey indeed at the hands of SuperHeavy.

But at the end of the day, we've had lots of fun.... a few WHAT??s, many "mmm"s, lots of "yesssss!!!"s and on the whole a general feeling of yeah.....they DID achieve quite a bit here! Don't forget it's 2011 and finding something new is ever so hard, but in my overall opinion, I think SuperHeavy has done just that...well, here 'n' there....at least.....