

Michael Finnegan, In the Mix-

"Opening their six song self-titled EP, Twelfth House sound just like any other urban trio cruising through the coffee houses of Chicago. But with sophisticated chord changes, poetically deep lyrics, and some of the most original song structures out there, they have managed to produce a clear and unprocessed slice of sixties psychedelia. Having less to do with mind-altering chemicals (second Webster's definition) and more to do with a natural ability to grasp and change or enhance a mood (first Webster's) purely by their sound, Twelfth House may have planted the roots of San Francisco on the shores of the city by the lake.

With a voice that borders on the Cranberries' Dolores O'Riordan's, singer/songwriter/guitarist Sally Maish is a gentle poet that speaks of smaller inner truths as opposed to grand schemes. With verses like, 'You can see what you imagine/If you stare into an open sky/No need to move to make it happen/No need to climb to get this high' (from 'Let's Pretend'), Maish finds a Zen-like peace in the big city that most of us can't find in the middle of a forest from the trees.

Bass player/vocalist/arranger Michael Pleska was the leader of the Czech band Brutus. They were underground because at that time rock music was illegal behind that part of the Iron Curtain. Playing his own music...led Pleska to Chicago where he met Maish and later Jimmy Olson who played with the Mighty Blue Kings.

Other songs include the introspective 'Looking' and 'Autumn Song,' a more rocking 'Grasshopper' (three levels deep), the passive 'Passive,' and the yearningly beautiful 'The Plant.'