

TWANG TOWN

REVIEWING THE LATEST IN AMERICANA, COUNTRY, FOLK, SINGER/SONGWRITER, ACOUSTIC, BLUES, AND BLUEGRASS.



Side F/X spices pop/rock grooves with helpings from the blues, country, and funk

Reviewed by **Brooke Curtis**

Side F/X/*Contradictions*

Major-label tastemakers would probably have a headache of a time trying to pigeonhole Side F/X. Here we have a fairly straightforward pop/rock group that spices their grooves with helpings from the blues, country, funk, jazz, reggae, and even New Wave. A decade ago, when musicians were still expected to find a single unifying sound and stick to it, Side F/X would've gotten the same three-letter grade and question mark: WTF? However, times have changed, and the creation of the iPod is making the record industry, whether they like it or not, realize that most people do not restrict themselves to one form of music.



Side F/X take the plunge, liberating themselves from any stylistic shackles, even in the same track. On "My Hero," Side F/X stitch together light funk, reggae, and '70s Adult Contemporary; in "Her Escape," Side F/X marry jazz and blues, letting sweaty sax glide across sizzling Robert Cray licks; the slow, emotionally evocative "Come a Little Closer" contrasts AOR riffs with moving piano. On paper, it reads like a car crash, but when you listen to it all, it is smooth sailing. There isn't a wasted moment here; the nine cuts that populate *Contradictions* express real feeling with ambitious musicianship, blending together with ease and excitement.

<http://www.sidefxband.net>

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M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
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- '60s
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