“Mumford & Sons releases their sophomore album “Babel”

Mumford & Sons isn’t exactly the first group you would think of that would pave themselves a path to platinum success. However, in an industry dominated by the catchy jams of Carly Rae Jepsen and the “womp womp” of dub step, Mumford & Sons has won a special place in our hearts through the banging of banjos.

Mumford & Sons exploded out of the UK in 2010 with their debut album “Sigh No More”. The album brought a folk vibe, Shakespearean lyrics, chilling harmonies, and the passionate lead vocal of Marcus Mumford. This caught the attention of new fans in the states and we quickly found ourselves pouring our hearts out to the beer-sloshing anthems of “The Cave” and “Little Lion Man”. As of today, “Sigh No More” has sold over 2.5 million copies in the United States.

The day is finally here. We have missed our favorite Scotts-man wailing out some new powerful and gritty melodies. Mumford & Sons has officially released their sophomore album “Babel”. “Babel” refines the Mumford sound without changing it too much. The entire album feels well-polished and flows smoothly from track to track. The band is back with smooth harmonies and banjos in hand, but the real heart of the album comes from the delivery of Marcus Mumford and the poetic lyrics. In the title track “Babel”, Mumford creatively pulls at our heart strings as he vows to “Press my nose up to the glass around your heart” and tell us that “the ghosts that we knew will flicker from view and we’ll live a long life” in the song “Ghosts That We Knew”. If all of that lyrical depth isn’t for you don’t worry, all of the songs are as jig-worthy as ever. The title track bursts out of the gate and lets us know right off the bat that we are in for a good time.

The question is, “What does “Babel” offer us that “Sigh No More” does not?” The real answer is not all that much... besides more Mumford. The fans of Mumford & Sons were looking for just that and weren’t too concerned with changing things stylistically. If you are looking for a new sound from Mumford, you won’t be finding it here. While the album transitions from song to song seamlessly, sometimes it is a bit too easy to lose track of which song you are even listening to. After ten minutes of
banjos, mandolins, and “Aaahhh aaahhh aaahhh”… things get a little repetitive. While each song is well crafted, many follow the formula of a quiet and soothing intro, followed by loud and powerful choruses (usually lead by intense banjo playing and fast paced rhythm guitar) with a bridge filled with “Aaahhh aaahhh aaahhh” thrown in there for good measure to wrap things up.

Regardless of the repetition, “Babel” offers some more classic Mumford. “Babel” gives us some easy and enjoyable listening and will undoubtedly be repeated on our playlists for the next few months. Songs like “I Will Wait”, “Broken Crown”, and “Below My Feet” will definitely join the ranks of my personal Mumford favorites and help make this record one of the best of the year.