

Press for The Seldon Plan



The Seldon Plan is a great new band from Baltimore. These four guys play guitar pop that is reminiscent of some of the greatest bands of the 1980s and 1990s. Two things missing from the majority of average pop bands are excellent melodies and great vocals. The guys in The Seldon Plan have both. *Making Circles* resounds with catchy tunes with top notch vocals. These guys make music that sounds familiar while managing to retain unique character and creativity. The guitars sound inspired and totally *lovely*. When combined with those heavenly vocals...the overall effect is cerebral and heavenly. We rarely hear independent releases that even come *close* to the quality of this disc. Destined to be a favorite among fans of underground pop, the guys in The Seldon Plan are doing *everything* right. Killer cuts include "A Rhyming Dictionary," "Making Circles," "Westchester," "Love Again," "New Instant," and "Chicago 2003." Recommended. (Rating: 5++)



Chicken soup for the indie rocker's soul. Soothing indie rock - though not lo-fi. These guys keep steadily mid-tempo beats, but the the unaltered guitars and soft indie-pop vocals can still bring you to that indie-zen place. Good stuff...



Making Circles has nothing to do with space ships or robot battles so you Isaac Asimov super fans better chill out. This debut release from The Seldon Plan is filled with well-crafted pop music such as the Teenage Fanclub influenced tracks 'Top Left Corner' and 'Westchester'. The best song on *Making Circles* just might be the bouncy but original 'Love Again'. What is most impressive about *Making Circles* is the fact that although this album is a self-released effort it sounds like a top-notch release from a major label.



Baltimore's The Seldon Plan employs the kind of pop-rock that all the indie kids are craving as a follow-up to their seminal Husker Du albums. A post-rock quartet, The Seldon Plan even managed to record with Frank Marchand made famous for working with Bob Mould as well as other local heroes like Jimmie's Chicken Shack and Good Charlotte. They swirl pop harmonies amid dynamic guitar melodies that showcase their immense songwriting talent. Indie pop for the crowd that doesn't mind saying that they enjoy emo and whose idea of indie rock isn't Weezer.



Like Death Cab For Cutie and Cabrini, the Seldon Plan is one of those bands that treads the line between emo and indiepop. The songs are jangly and catchy like any good indiepop tunes, but they also have a more mature and polished sound you would hear in a lot of emo. Even with its catchy songs, the album has a generally subdued feel with hushed vocals and a restrained sound. Usually, the indiepop element wins over, with songs like "A Rhyming Dictionary", "Westchester" and "[aperitif]" being some of the record's highlights (but certainly not the only ones). Still, there are enough really good songs on here, to make me want to listen to it over and over.



Style: post-rock pop

Influenced by: The Promise Ring, Sunday's Best, Rilo Kiley

Notable: When the band started performing around the city, it played alternative settings like art galleries, Nestor said. They'd bring in artists, spoken-word poets and filmmakers and invite them to show their work at Seldon Plan concerts, he said.

Quotable: "We try to make our shows be about everybody getting together and getting to know one another as much as it is about seeing us play," Nestor said. "I've been really excited because I've had the opportunity to do that more in the club situation."



The Big Takeover Magazine Issue # 57

I knew nothing of this Baltimore four, and "The Seldon Plan" sounds like something Sigfried cooked up for Maxwell Smart. But one listen to Making Circles and you're hooked like a smallmouth bass. Imagine Elliot Smith singing for a pop-rock band with thick but clean guitars and an indie-pop, original-Dischord-emo exigency you want more of. Leader Bobby Landle has that same syrupy, worrisome quality that the late Smith had, and Frank Marchand's production accentuates the bands latent splendor underneath the ineradicable catchiness of his songs, as well as Landle's and Michael Nestor's playful yet enmeshing guitars.



Seldon Plan - Living Room EP : User Reviews

A great talent waiting to be discovered.

★★★★★ by syna (10/03/2004) **Pros:** Dynamic sounds **Cons:** None

This band is from Baltimore, and if you know anything about it down there, there is no support for music. Anyway, I am amazed to find such a great relevant band that is yet to be signed. This is Barsuk-Saddle Creek material easily. The AMG review got it right about The Seldon Plan being a little like Tsunami but I hear Death Cab for Cutie, Jimmy Eat World, Nada Surf, Spoon and Rilo Kiley. Don't get me wrong, this band has a sound of their own and this stuff is great. I can't wait for what comes next and I hope some major label gives these guys the support they deserve!

All Customer Reviews

Average Customer Review: ★★★★★

★★★★★ **Baltimore Quartet Rises Above.**, March 3, 2005

Baltimore is a wasteland of clique bands and cliché music. This band is neither and makes music that should be recognized more. The EP is a solid listen from front to back and I went to the The Seldon Plan website and saw there is a new disc on the way. Can't wait for that. Although it is evident that the band's first effort is one where they are still getting comfortable with themselves, see: 'Charles Olsen' versus 'Down in a Fog' the core is there in spades. I highly recommend this record to anyone who likes good music. If you like cliques and cliché-then by all means-stay away.

★★★★★ **What a nice little EP.**, January 17, 2005 Saw these guys live, and the put on a great live show. Bought the record and this band is awesome. I am excited to see what comes next, but The Living Room EP really has great sound. Tracks like Neveragain, Michigan and Charles Olsen remind me of great indie-rock bands like Jimmy Eat World and Rilo Kiley. This band is going to be big.



★★★★★! **An amazing counter to the retro-synth that is infecting indie rock.**

Reviewer: Tom Staddon, Editor, Rex Efix Magazine

Right now, the state of indie-rock is wierd. On one side, you have the plethora of Death Cab rip offs and on the other you have the "new is old" mantra of the new-wave revival Franz Ferdinand rip offs. The primary concept here is "rip off." The Seldon Plan's "Making Circles" is nowhere near this mess. They are carving out a sound on this record that is firmly rooted in Promise Ringesque angluar hooks, but have the solid rock qualities of a Teenage Fanclub or Frank Black's post-Pixies work. The record as whole is strong and subtle, with each song building on one another as if telling a story. Songs like "Westchester" backed by others like "Holding Patterns are Slow" suggest that this band may be the poster child for a new genre of indie rock: AOIR (album-oriented-indie-rock). One listen to this record and you will see that not only do these guys obviously listen to good music, they make it too.

★★★★★! **a well-crafted record from start to finish**

Reviewer: A. S.

These guys don't get the respect they deserve here in Baltimore; They're truly one of the only bands in town who aren't just kicking around playing shows, but instead are making great RECORDS. This is a well-crafted record from start to finish, a whole greater than the sum of its parts. The songs are simple but the subtle hooks stick with you. And what sticks with me most when the record's over is the journey I've been led on -- the squall of guitar noise and cascading drums at the end of album-closer "Chicago 2003" feels not just cathartic after the more restrained pop that precedes it, but earned.

★★★★★! **Amazing, delicate, and intricate intelligent indie rock! A must have...**

Reviewer: Jake Ramsay

Making Circles is a simple delight. The songs on this disk are a fine example of mid-tempo intelliigent indie pop for those with discriminating taste. Songs like the title track "Making Circles" and the downtempo "Samuel P. Huntingdon" recall early REM and and early Cure, while the overall sound of this disc is closer to the latest efforts by Spoon mixed with the energy and tone of the record "Proximity Effect" by Nada Surf. This record recals a time in music when it was OK to make your lyrics somewhat intellectual and your pop catchy and complex. This is a great CD by a great band.



So...Where Is Helsinki?

My hiatus is up, and I can post regularly again, which is a sweet deal. I've been planning to post about The Seldon Plan for about a week, and I told them I would post about them last week and yet here I am now (sorry guys!). I was extremely thrilled when they added me on MySpace, one of those shocks, like what? Baltimore has a band this good and no one knew about it? Seriously...How'd no one know about them around here. But alas, now the amigos know. Soundwise, they aren't necessarily straight indie at all, which makes it different from a lot of music I've posted in the past. This has more of an emo sound, a lot like The Secret Handshake, but songs have more of an alternative sound. It's all good. It's all good. I enjoy the sound, and I am hoping you will to.



You know that feeling you get when you run across something you used to like but then forgot about, and then seeing or hearing or tasting it reminds you all over again of the way you used to feel? That's kind of what The Seldon Plan's debut full-length, *Making Circles*, is like, at least to me. I hear the mid-speed, deliberate tempos, the boyish, Teenage Fanclub-esque vocals, and the murky fuzz-drone anchoring the delicately-plucked guitars, and I have to smile (okay, yeah, it's partly because the sci-fi geek in me appreciates the Asimov reference, but still...).

It brings back nights spent in dingy clubs, listening to bands like Seam, Bedhead, Heatmiser (rest in peace, Elliott), and Silver Scooter, people who played this kind of pseudo-melancholy, close-your-eyes-and-bliss-out indie-rock. It's not as downright suicidal as the likes of Codeine or old-school Low, but there's still an alluring somberness to it all. There was a point in my musical life where I absolutely *lived* for stuff like The Seldon Plan, couldn't get enough of it, and on hearing *Circles*, I'm back in that warm, cozy little space.

The bad part? I couldn't tell which song was which, even with the track listing right here in front of me; I lost track after the first few songs (although I *think* "Top Left Corner" and "Checkered Flag" were the names of two that particularly caught my ear). The good side of that, though, is that it honestly doesn't matter, so long as the CD keeps playing.



To many of us, to the first listening they can come to us to remember bands like Death Cab For Cutie or The Edsel Auctioneer. Even sometimes in tipping of the refrains and the voice, and even the sadness and that strange melancholy, the tone of its leader and singer, can remember to us to the one of the same Michael Stipe, like in "Eyes Closed". But The Seldon Plan drinks of many different sources, of which musically includes a pair of decades in fertile America but speaking. For that reason it is a pleasure to listen to this "Making Circles"...a new sort of indierock that knows to choose well its roots and to shake them with force to offer an explosive cocktail.

i (heart) music

As much as I'd like to pigeonhole The Seldon Plan into some easy category, I find this increasingly difficult every time I listen to *Making Circles*. They call themselves "emo" on their Myspace page, but this is one of those rare examples of a band actually underselling themselves. While songs like "Top Left Corner", "Westchester" and others (visit their media page for more streaming audio) certainly have traces of emo, there are lots of other influences -- including Pavement and REM, for example -- in there too.



Seldon Plan - Making Circles - CD (OTP Records): You would never know that this indie rock CD is the first full release from The Seldon Plan. The mix is great, the band sounds very professional and it has very catchy lyrics and music. I couldn't help but tap my foot along with the music, and after the first time listening to the CD I began singing along. This band has a sound all its own and I would recommend The Seldon Plan to anyone who enjoys a little mellow indie rock.

-- Simi (2006)

On Tap

The Washington, DC Metro area's magazine for entertainment, music, nightlife and culture

Four Play: Special Six Points Music Festival Edition written by Chris Connelly

The Seldon Plan

I have a feeling that The Seldon Plan loves "We Have the Facts and We're Voting Yes." With their dual Fender guitar assault, The Seldon Plan's newest record "Making Circles" has instrumentation very reminiscent of Death Cab for Cutie's masterpiece, but also draws immediate vocal parallels to Nada Surf and Elliott Smith. This Baltimore quartet crafts moody, dreamy pop songs filled with guitar texture and tight harmonies. Honest, sincere and warm, The Seldon Plan is among the more charming bands in the area. Performing primarily in Baltimore, the group makes it down to DC every couple of months, but it is likely that the strength of "Making Circles" will take them out on the road on a more regular basis. Catch them on the ground floor before this wonderful little secret gets out.



I'm a sucker for bands that will give me dreamy guitars ringing a solid melody throughout a song. These guys hit just the right chords to generate those melancholy emotional stirrings, and they mix up their rhythms so expertly. I just love all of the choices they make -- their rock has such a calculated complexity to it, polished to a shine. Great musicians.

INDEPENDENT clauses.com

Written by: Stephen Carradini

I really like it when a band that has the chops to rock out in a passionate way exercises restraint. It shows maturity on their part, usually produces tight, energetic songs, and makes those times in which they rock out that much more exciting. Throughout Making Circles, the Seldon Plan parades out their pulsing, pumping indie-pop side while hinting at the rock hidden within.

The album starts out on a high note with "A Rhyming Dictionary". Building off the strength of an ear-catching lead guitar riff and some unique drumming patterns, the song blossoms into an enviable pop/rock song by the time the chorus rolls around. The title track follows, and as it is one of the most enjoyable tracks on the album, it serves to ensure that the tight drumming, quirky guitaring, and charming melodies weren't a fluke on "A Rhyming Dictionary".

The album mellows from the driving rhythms of the first few tracks, settling into a dreamy, comfortable groove that is retained for most of the album. "Love Again", the best track on the album, is right in the center of the album. It starts off with a 1950's TV or movie sample about boys and girls, then leads into a breezy, upbeat ditty about a girl who falls in love all the time. The final blow is delivered when the sample returns near the end of the song, proclaiming that girls who sleep with all the boys aren't really popular. The song flows perfectly- an inspired bit of songwriting.

Flow is very important on this album- the album progressively gets softer until the final track "Chicago 2003" is reached. It starts off very soft, but a lot of the smooth dreaminess that characterized the other tracks is gone, replaced with a more potent feel. Instead of being jilted, as much of the album's lyrical content mulls over, the lyricist has jilted his lover. "You thought I was the one," he coos, before unleashing the band on a guitar-and-drums-heavy tirade that rocks harder than anything else on the album. This is where the band really shines- where the tension is finally released and the band just goes for it. It's a great song, second only to "Love Again" as the best on the album. But it's great because the rest of the album isn't exactly like it- it's what I've been waiting for the entire album.

The Seldon Plan knows how to write a strong album. Some of the individual songs along the way don't really stick out when played out of context of the album, but when listened to as a whole, each song works beautifully. This record would be great on vinyl on a grayish day, hanging out with your girlfriend. It's a great album- doesn't push any borders or break any boundaries (if they did, this would be a fantastic album), but it's a great album nonetheless. Highly recommended.



Another gem from Magnatune's Ironic Rock collection. Seldon Plan sounds as good as anything you'll hear on major market radio. Nice energy, fantastic guitar sound, emoish lyrics.



Following in the footsteps of Death Cab For Cutie, Baltimore's The Seldon Plan are another band to emerge from the emo scene with a potential to win over a mature audience. Like their contemporaries, their music is complex in structure yet melodic. Most of their self-titled debut ticks the right boxes from keening vocals ('Top Left Corner') to angular chord changes (the title track) to doleful, low-slung guitars ('Holding Patterns Are Slow') and on 'New Instant' they fuse all those elements together with a deceptively airy, carefree vocal and achieve an outstanding performance. This ranks as a great start for these newcomers and it wouldn't be too surprising to hear them on an episode of 'The OC' in the near future.

Stupendous Man!

...To the
rescue.

The Seldon Plan

Last night, I attended what was my first music “concert” of my life. Except that the concert was held in a small room size of oversized bedroom, and the audience consisted of 15 people, including 4 of my friends. We were at Six Points Music Festival, now in its second year, a initiative aimed at showcasing some of the best smaller bands, also called independent bands, or indie bands, around the D.C area. The husband of a colleague of a friend of mine featured in a band that was going to play there, and that is how we came to know about the festival.

Strathmore Hall was the place where the concert was held – a huge place for arts and music. It helped that this center was just right across the street from where I lived, and made it a much easier commute for me – why we could have just walked and it wouldn’t take ten minutes to get there. When I and my friend got there, we were quite surprised to see large number of senior citizens (65+) in the concert hall area – they all seemed appropriately dressed for an opera rather than a rock concert, and we began to have our doubts if we had come to the right festival indeed. Turned out, it was a veteran’s music festival on the same day that six points was held – six points was being held in the “Mansion Hall” of Strathmore, which was another 5 minute walk away in the campus. Mansion it definitely was, what struck us there, was an utter lack of any public around.

Once inside the mansion, much to our surprise, we were probably the first, and for a long time looked like the only audience to this festival. The band we were about to listen to was The Seldon Plan, a local indie band around for sometime. At around 7.30 they started their half hour show, and I must say I was in for a complete surprise – they turned out to be a real good band, with some real good music.

They came out with an album last year, and played mostly songs from the album, particularly “Top Left Corner”, “Westchester” and “Holding Patterns are slow” (I really bizarre name for a song I would say). They played a few more, but I didn’t get the names. I must say, for a good 35 minutes, I enjoyed the music. Theirs is a 4 band army, with 3 guitarists doubling as vocals and bass, and another with drums and percussions. The names of members can be found here (I wish their website had more info on the members).

Their style was very much in the independent music band, and perhaps carried a little inspiration from Death Cab for Cutie, a band which made it huge recently. Their music stayed simple, guitars, bass and drums being mostly their background; what I liked very much about them was they didn’t try too hard, but just played good music. Period.

One thing which I really appreciated about them was the way they entertained a crowd, of all but 15 people in the room. They cracked jokes, smiled and got the 15 people involved in their music. Its was great to see them enjoying their own music, which is what music is all about.

Later, we came to know a bit about the group from the colleague – one of the band members is doctor in neuroscience, other a robotic engineer working for government, yet another a computer engineer. They all pursue music as a hobby seriously and play at local venues. We were quite stunned to hear that – and here were we, claiming to lead “busy” lives with “no time” to do anything, when in front of us stood a band, probably much busier than we were, but finding time to do what they love. It was refreshing indeed.

After their performance, the next band which came in didn’t match up, and felt like overdose of radiohead hangover lingering around. We promptly exited the mansion in the middle of next performance.

All in all, it was a great event – I hope their album “Making Circles” makes it big; and I am already to buy some of their songs from iTunes.

Do give them a listen. A couple of their tracks are on their website and also on myspace at <http://www.myspace.com/theseldonplan>.