

DIGITAL STEEL

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MENU

NEWS
BANDS
PHOTOS
MYSPACE
LINKS

ABOUT
CONTACT

SEARCH

REVIEWS

ALBUM
CONCERT
INTERVIEWS

YEARLISTS

VISITOR

LOGIN

REGISTER

ALBUM REVIEWS

Album reviews:

Here you'll find all album reviews sorted on publish date, descending. Latest published items are on top.

Note: We don't give a mark to: MCDs, DEMOs, Compilations and Live albums.

Page: [Show all reviews](#)

KEEPER OF THE EARTH

Highway Chile

01. Keeper of the earth
02. Poison
03. Road to paradise
04. Freefighters
05. Pretending
06. Run Away
07. Heatwave
08. Endless trail
09. Headbangers
10. Stealing with pride
11. Long live rock 'n roll
12. Dreaming of heaven



Highway Chile operated between 1980 - 1985 and released several popular records such as *Storybook Heroes* (1983) and *Fever* (1984). In those years they toured a lot and they shared the stage with big acts like Motorhead, Whitesnake, Michael Schenker, Accept and Y&T. Highway Chile was, together with Picture, Helloise, Bodine, Vengeance and Vandenberg, one of the top acts of the Dutch national heavy rock scene in the eighties.

LATEST

ORDER OF NINE



Order of Nine



Withered



Highway Chile



Lanfear

In 1984 the original Highway Chile line-up split up. Jan Koster and Eric Karreman continued Highway Chile (to form some years later the stunning well known Sleaze rock act Sleeze Beez). Ernst van Ee and Ben Blaauw formed the succesfull formula Helloise. Highway Chile held on for one year with some new members but became too much AOR oriented for the orginal fans.

In 2002 the band toured all over Holland again and made a great live-recording with the appropriate title *On The Road Again*. On this CD you can hear the voice of Robert Soeterboek and the guitar sound of Attila Szabo (both replaced in 2003).

So here we have the new studio album and I can tell right now that if you loved *Storybook Heroes* from 1983, you should immediately run to your local record store to get this new Highway Chile album. The line-up now is with Stan Verbraak (v) (ex-Helloise), Martin Mens (g, k🤩), Gert Nijboer (g), Edwin de Haag (🤩) (meanwhile replaced by Marchell Remeus (ex-Helloise) and of course Ernst van Ee (dr). Together they made songs like they never have left the good old eighties. This eighties feeling is getting higher when we hear the new recordings from *Endless Trail* and *Headbangers* with a guitar solo of the original guitarist Ben Blauw. Both songs are coming directly of their debut album *Storybook Heroes*. And when you hear the Rainbow cover *Long Live Rock 'n' Roll* with a guitar solo from the other original member Peter Barnouw and a sample from Alfred Lagarde (RIP) 'Rock and Roll is better than Music', which comes from the song *Highway Chile* from Yes indeed, *Storybook Heroes*, you must know enough know.

The production is of course updated to the standard of 'this time', but the songs might have been written two decades ago. Straight Hard Rock with feelings for refrains that stick in your head after one time listening. The title number is for example such a song. Great riffs with the voice of Stan Verbraak who let us know that he's still one of the top singers from the Netherlands. The album follows with the heavy song *Poison* followed by the up-tempo *Road to Paradise*. *Free Fighters* could have easily been a track on their debut album. And so I could go on, but with Highway Chile back in the scene just as Vengeance and Picture maybe it's time for Vandenberg to give us a sign of life?

But anyway this new Highway Chile album *Keeper of the Earth* is a must have for all you eighties metal fans. Personally I would have liked that they had re-recorded *Carol - lady of the dark room*, but you can't get it all. I know for sure they will play that song on the road.

Highway Chile is coming to get you ! Are you ready ? Yeaaaaah !

Rating: 87 /100

Review was written by: **Hans**

Page: [Show all reviews](#)

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