



REVIEWS

ALBUM

Collabro

Home

- ◆ Peak Productions (label)
- 📅 03 March 2017 (released)
- 🕒 39 min
- ✍️ [Jeremy Williams-Chalmers](#)



With aims of breaking into the recording industry, five aspiring musical theatre performers grouped together just in time for Britain's Got Talent 2014's auditions. The quintet rehearsed a rendition of Stars from Les Misérables and blew the four judges away. With Simon Cowell's eyes pinging with the thought of a musical theatre equivalent of 1D rolling in the easy money for him, the group moved effortlessly through the competition to win it all on the 7th June. Just a few months later their covers laden debut album, Stars, hit the #1 spot and it seemed as if all would be plain sailing. While the quintet managed #2 a year later with Act Two, all was not happy in the band's camp with Richard Hadfield becoming the group's Zayn and leaving the fold. Like 1D, the four 'brothers' agreed to continue in the musical quest and so we arrive at album #3, Home.

With a title that is more stated than those for their previous releases, it is clear that quartet are determined to show that they are able to weather the storm and still steal hearts with their faithful cover versions. An independent release following their departure from the Syco fold, the stakes are high for Collabro as they fight to prove they have staying power.

Although the build up to the album has been somewhat dramatic, the collection is perhaps their most striking to date. While their Syco releases played heavily upon musical theatre reworkings of pop classics, their independent effort plays more faithfully to their strengths. These are musical theatre vocalists delivering striking harmony driven renditions of all your musical favourites, alongside a few lesser known gems.

Talent show favourite This Is The Moment, as lifted from Jekyll & Hyde, opens the collection and sets the tone perfectly. While the whole product is well produced, the musical arrangements are subtle, allowing the compelling vocalists to do what they do best, tell a story through song. A spirited and truly enjoyable performance, the quartet immediately silence any critics.

While renditions of Empty Tables At Empty Chairs, Send In The Clowns and Don't Rain On My Parade are all impressively delivered, it is in the more inspired reworkings and tender deliveries that Collabro really shine. While Ariana Grande and John Legend may have worked their Beauty & The Beast magic in recent weeks, there is something more striking about Collabro's take. Another Disney classic, Anastasia's Journey To The Past comes close to stealing the show, but the original Lighthouse, which was co-penned with pop-powerhouse Ben Adams showcases a new direction for the group and will leave you with tingles.

Collabro may have had a shaky few years but they have clearly come out the other end stronger and more determined. They really have found their Home on their third release.

