

## PAUL RODGERS

*Live in Glasgow* DVD

(Eagle)

The founding member and lead vocalist of Free, Bad Company and the Firm storms and prances through an hour-and-a-half of his greatest hits on this impressive 2006 live DVD (also available as an audio CD). Recorded at a single performance in the titular city, Rodgers, arguably the finest

voice in hard rock, is in terrific form both vocally and physically. Nothing here indicates he's just a few years shy of his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The set is peppered with most of the

songs you'd expect trotted out ("Can't Get Enough," "All Right Now," "Bad Company," "Radioactive") and some like "The Hunter" and "Seagull" just far enough off the radar to elicit knowing responses from those who have followed Rodgers' extensive career more closely. Thankfully he's not trying to push the classic bluesy-rock envelope as he cavorts around the stage, twirling and hoisting the mic stand like he invented these rather hackneyed moves, which he certainly helped to do. But neither is he the sad cliché that so many '70s classic rockers have become, because he obviously believes in these rugged songs and their ringing, sing-along, fist-pumping choruses. A tough, stripped-down, somewhat unlikely four-piece (including both a fresh-faced 17-year-old guitarist and a graying former Heart six-string slinger Howard Leese) helps put them across with fire and conviction.

DVD extras include unnecessary chats with fans, the band and even Rodgers, who acquits himself remarkably well in the face of inane questions from a bumbling interviewer. Thirteen cameras capture the show from every angle imaginable, and perhaps because the editor felt he had to justify the expense, few shots last longer than five seconds. That adds a frustratingly choppy facet to an otherwise rousing performance that will surely please existing Paul Rodgers fans and may make him a few new ones.

—Hal Horowitz

## QUEEN

*Queen DVD Collector's Box 2-DVD set*

(MVD Visual)

If the Rolling Stones are King of arena rock, then Queen was its Queen. Dually led by the flamboyant and multitalented vocalist, keyboardist and writer Freddie Mercury and guitarist/writer Brian May, this four-man group wrote and performed some of the biggest songs of the '70s and '80s, to some of the biggest audiences. Even today, more than 15 years after Mercury's death, "We Are the Champions" is routinely blasted post-game into the very stadiums where Queen performed their mammoth extravaganzas, and "We Will Rock You" sounds like the chorus *belongs* to thousands of fans.

The *Under Review 1973-1980* DVD recounts the history of the band, including clips of select performances and still photos, interspersed with commentary by writers. All the analysis is interesting and to the point, but I found Simon Bradley, of *Guitarist Magazine*, particularly fascinating, since his remarks were accompanied by demonstrations of how Brian May created his sound, complete with a replica of May's one-of-a-kind guitar. (May, a former astronomy Ph.D. candidate, built it with his father.) Extensive performance clips give a solid idea of the enormous power Queen wielded onstage.

*Magic Moments* is virtually all interviews with friends, mostly Freddie Mercury's associ-

ates. The reminiscences are always laudatory and sometimes revealing, but because the focus is primarily personal rather than professional, this DVD would be appreciated by hardcore fans more than those

with only a casual interest. Interestingly, not once was reference made to Mercury's death from AIDS, or to the subsequent fate of the surviving members.

I'm a sucker for harmony and an unabashed Queen fan in all their guises, from "Killer Queen" to "Bohemian Rhapsody" to "Fat Bottom Girls," and at least one of these DVDs brought it all back for me.

—Suzanne Cadgene



left to right: Dan Tyminski, Barry Bales, Alison Krauss, Jerry Douglas and Ron Block

## ALISON KRAUSS AND UNION STATION, FEATURING JERRY DOUGLAS

*UC Berkeley Greek Theatre*

Alison Krauss seemed perfect for the UC Berkeley Greek Theatre. The 8,500-seat amphitheatre on the Berkeley campus, a 1903 gift from media baron William Randolph Hearst, has hosted numerous music concerts, graduation ceremonies and speakers such as Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy and the Dalai Lama.

Krauss, born in 1971, started violin lessons at five, playing bluegrass and country licks, and by eight was entering talent contests. At ten she formed her own band, at 12 won the Illinois State Fiddle Championship, and two years later had a recording contract. Her 12 albums have won 20 Grammys; her music moves seamlessly across country, pop, folk, and roots categories. Krauss has produced many of her own albums and recently produced Alan Jackson's *Like Red on A Rose*. Her music has been featured in movies, including *Cold Mountain*, *O Brother, Where Art Thou*, *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*, and *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, among others.

Krauss has promoted bluegrass to a broader audience while preserving its heritage, and this performance did just that. She graciously acknowledges Union Station, talented musicians who complement Krauss's angelic soprano and fiddle flourishes: guitar/mandolin player and vocalist Dan Tyminski, banjoist/guitarist/vocalist Ron Block, bassist/harmony vocalist Barry Bales and quintessential dobro master, Jerry Douglas who, during a short intermission, entertained with incredible dobro wizardry. Her tour ensemble also included a keyboardist and drummer.

Audience favorites included "Same Old Train," "Ghost In This House," "Constant Sorrow," "Simple Love," and "I'll Be Leaving." A great performance in a majestic setting!

—Scott Peavler

