

THE BIG TAKEOVER

801 LIVE (COLLECTORS EDITION)

(EXPRESSION RECORDS)

Former Roxy Music guitarist, Phil Manzanera's solo project, 801, a bonafide super-group in its inception, featuring the talents of Brian Eno, Simon Phillips, Bill MacCormick and Francis Monkman, issued one great album, their live 1976 debut. This new edition features the recently expanded 13 song release, along with a fairly expendable second disc of studio rehearsals. A feast for fans of progressive music from this period, "801 Live" contains polished, vibrant versions of songs from Manzanera's wonderful debut album, "Diamond Head", along with classic Eno tracks ("Baby's on Fire"), unexpected covers ("Tomorrow Never Knows", "You Really Got Me"), and obscure pieces from Phil's first band, Quiet Sun ("East of Asteroid"). Hearing Eno, in his prime, performing live, handling most of the vocals, supported by such a technically accomplished cast of players is a rare pleasure, and a singular moment in his career. Completists will surely want the second, previously unreleased CD, despite sub par sound quality, since it features practice sessions of the same songs with slight variations.

- Paul Lemos