



'Back To Back Live,' Mr. B. and Bob Seeley (MVDvisual, HHH and a half stars)

This novel Oct. 20 DVD is a film featuring two boogie-woogie piano masters playing with their grand pianos "back to back" in concert. The piano boogie comes fast and furious, and is only interrupted by somewhat-scholarly introductions and interludes about the pieces being played. Most of the time, Mr. B. (Mark Lincoln Braun) will play a song, then Bob Seeley will play another interpretation. At a time when music fans are deluged by sound-alike "alternative" bands and hip-hop gangsta wannabes, the DVDs reviewed this week are a refreshing change.

Highlights include audience reactions from toe-tapping to rapturous facial expressions, camera work that captures everything including keyboard-level close-ups, the seamless transition from alternating to "four-handed" pianos on "Going Down Slow," and lots of classic tunes played in contrasting but complimentary styles. Piano buffs, this one will be a great addition to your collection.

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