

'40th Anniversary Reunion Concert,' Emerson Lake & Palmer (ConcertOne/MVDvisual, HHHH1/2)

The release date for this impressive DVD/Blu-ray is Aug. 23, but it came to me slightly later. One of the most impressive examples of classical-level virtuosity in a rock-band format, Emerson, Lake & Palmer (Keith Emerson/keyboards, Greg Lake/bass, guitar & vocals, and Carl Palmer/drums) bridged the worlds of classical music, jazz, pop, technology and theatrical showmanship impressively during their initial 1970-1977 run. They released six platinum albums during that time, as well. This show, filmed at England's High Voltage Festival on Sunday, July 25, 2010, was their first reunion since 1998. Bonus material includes new interviews with Emerson, Lake and Palmer plus other principals. Emerson explains that due to festival time constraints, they were just getting into Palmer's drum solo when a tech said "Seven minutes left!"

Nearly all of the cream of their material is present, though: "Knife-Edge," "From the Beginning," an abbreviated "Pictures at an Exhibition," "Lucky Man" and more. Lake's chubbier and has lost a little vocal top end, but this show is a fond reminder of pre-punk days.