



CHICK COREA ELEKTRIC BAND

Live At The Maintenance Shop

Quantum/MVD

Review by Joe Milliken

Filmed At The Maintenance Shop club at Iowa State University in 1987, this is truly a classic jazz-fusion performance from the legendary keyboard player and composer Chick Corea and his Elektric Band trio, with Dave Weckl on drums and John Patitucci on bass. Originally formed in 1986 after his legendary Return To Forever band dissolved, Corea's Elektric Band took an approach that was much entrenched in a shiny-clean, more commercialized jazz sound that had surrounded the time period.

But don't let the "80's label" fool you into thinking this music is without merit or character because indeed, the vibes captured on *Live At The Maintenance Shop* (although perhaps a little sterilized) are innovative and *elektrifying*. Captured in a dimly-lit, very intimate setting with a backdrop of elegant stained windows, Corea, Weckl and Patitucci demonstrate from the outset that they are not only amazing musicians, but almost effortlessly groove together as they blend their impeccable chops to create an energetic set that featured four of five Corea compositions taken from at the time, the band's self-titled, debut release.

The opening "Sidewalk" and one of this reviewer's favorite jazz moments of that decade, Patitucci and Weckl build a strong groove for which Corea to lay his keyboard magic over, while "India Town" projects just that, through an array of Corea's cascading embellishments. "King Cockroach" is another burner taken from the Elektric Band's debut release, however it is the 14-minute "Rumble", which is truly the highlight of the performance. Beginning with Corea jamming on an electronic keyboard strapped over his shoulder, both Weckl and Patitucci proceed to truly shine, with the formers' progressive drum fills and the latters' amazingly nimble six-string bass lines. Never mind the mind-blowing bass solo in which Patitucci is playing so fast that it appears that the video footage is actually sped up. Oh, and Weckl's drum solo isn't too shabby either! This is a great find for not just Corea fans, but any follower of the fusion jazz genre.