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Chick Corea

Chick Corea Elektric Band: Live at the Maintenance Shop DVD Review by Gary Hill

I know there are those who will probably say that Chick Corea isn't progressive rock but rather jazz. Well, frankly we often put fusion into prog rock. I mean, seriously what is fusion but a combination of jazz and rock music? And isn't that often a big part of prog rock? Besides, these guys sound a lot like UK (or vice versa) and I'm doubtful many would have a problem with putting that group in under prog. So, now that that's out of the way, let's discuss this DVD.

Here we have a video of a show from 1987. The group (Corea on keys, Dave Weckl on drums and John Patitucci providing the bass) put in an absolutely amazing show. The music was all top notch and all three men showed that they were formidable musicians. The crowd even provided some singalong (to instrumentals none the less). Corea used a keytar to get out from behind his rack now and again.

The sound quality is great, but perhaps the video is just a little dark. Mind you, it's only a tiny bit – not enough to hamper enjoyment. I just felt there was enough there to warrant a mention. The truth is, though, both the performance and the film of the performance are strong enough to make this a "must have" even if nothing else had been provided.

That's not the case, though. We get some bonus material. Mind you, it's just some bio material and discography of each of the guys in the band. Still, it is a bonus and, as I said, the main feature is pretty incredible. So, I'd highly recommend this to all fans of Chick Corea. If you are on the fence and been interested in checking the group out but haven't made the plunge, this is also a definite recommendation.



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