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Bill Nelson And The Gentlemen Rocketeers - Recorded Live In Concert At Metropolis Studios, London (Convexe Entertainment)

Well, as I live and breathe! I never thought I'd see a live Bill Nelson DVD, much less of a new performance. Yet, here it is. Recorded in March of 2011 in London's Metropolis studios, Nelson and his Gentlemen Rocketeers plug in and turn in quite a hot little set!

Wearing a hat, sunglasses, and sporting a goatee, Nelson and the band plunge into the following: **The October Man, Night Creatures, God Man Slain, Contemplation, Lady You're A Strange Girl, Adventures In A Yorkshire Landscape, Furniture Music, Do You Dream In Colour, Ships In The Night, Lovers Are Mortal, Maid In Heaven, Sister Seagull, Wonder Of The Moment, Panic In The World**. Nelson also performs 4 solo pieces: **Beyond These Clouds The Sweetest Dream, Golden Dream Of Circus Horses, A Dream For Ian, For Stuart**.

The Gentlemen Rocketeers are Dave Standeven on guitar; Dave Sturt on bass; Jon Wallinger and Steve Cook on keys; Theo Travis on sax & flute; and Gavin Griffiths on drums. Quite a solid ensemble. The DVD also includes an interview with Nelson as well as the entire show on 2 CDs. An absolutely essential set for all you futurists out there!

Van Der Graaf Generator - Recorded Live In Concert At Metropolis Studios, London (Convexe Entertainment)

If there was ever a good time party band, it's Van Der Graaf Generator. Their snappy, cheery tunes have captivated masses of folks for decades. Yeah, right. VDGG were and are caustic, disturbing, dark - the grandfather of all emo artists. As this late 2010 gig at London's Metropolis studios shows, time has not softened their edges, thank God.

This is the 3 piece Van Der Graaf Generator: Hugh Banton on keys; Guy Evans on drums; Peter Hammill on vocals, guitar, and keys. They are in fine fettle with Evans a downright percussive maniac. Banton's hands and feet are seemingly always in motion - an octopus of sound. Hammill is everything you need him to be - passionate vocals coupled with strong playing. Pieces like **Lemmings, Over The Hill, Lifetime**, and **Man-Erg** are like bleach and flies on your pizza - unsettling! You wouldn't want it any other way from these lads.

I'm especially fond of the camera work on this DVD - it manages to capture key facial expressions of all in addition to giving an intimate look at the performance. The DVD includes a fascinating and revealing interview with the band and the package comes with 2 CDs of the live performance. Brilliant, mesmerizing, necessary.

The Zombies - Recorded Live In Concert At Metropolis Studios, London (Convexe Entertainment)

I think it's safe for me to say that this DVD / CD set is a celebration of the Zombies and the enduring nature of their music. Recorded at Metropolis studios in London in January of 2011, this gig is from the tour that heavily featured tracks from **Odessey & Oracle**. The Zombies are firing on all pistons and the

choice of material is A+.

The distinctive keyboards of Rod Argent and soaring vocals of Colin Blunstone are well supported by Jim Rodford on bass, Steve Rodford on drums, and Tom Toomey on guitar. The 19 songs here include kickin' takes of **I Love You**, **Any Other Way**, **Time Of The Season**, **Tell Her No**, **Hold Your Head Up** (a nod to Argent's *other* band), and lots more. There is a definite fire to this band - they play with lots of spirit to match their impeccable musicianship.

The camera is close and lingering - no OCD rapid cuts here. The DVD includes a bonus interview with Argent and Blunstone. Quite a nice package!