

Verschuren to excise from *Return to Japan* former collaborator Arjen Lucassen, whose live performance the couple found unsatisfactory. The chemistry on *10th Anniversary Concert* results in Lane's best band of her decade-long career. Fans new to Lane or symphonic rock in general will find this collection invaluable.

As a bonus, there's a mildly intriguing video tour diary that unfortunately features few scenes with Lane. — **Michael Popke**

ERIK NORLANDER AND FRIENDS: *Live in St. Petersburg*
2006 (DVD, 143:00); Think Tank Media TTMV-1004

Style: Progressive rock

Sound: ★★★ Visuals: ★★★1/2 Content: ★★★

Performance: ★★★ Total rating: 14½

Where would progressive rock be without people like Erik Norlander to remind us where it all came from? Norlander is this generation's answer to "founding fathers" Keith Emerson and Rick Wakeman: A wizard behind the keyboards who masters mood and melody, tone and texture, both as a solo artist and in the ensemble format.

This DVD (with accompanying bonus audio disc of the gig shot in St. Petersburg, Russia) is a sumptuous display of Norlander in action alone and with a supporting cast including wife Lana Lane (vocals), singer-bassist Kelly Keeling, plus guitarist Peer Verschuren and drummer Ernst Van Ee. Visually stunning – a multi-camera shoot with production embellishments including bits of atmospheric computer animation – *Live in St. Petersburg* is dynamic and full of motion.

Material includes tracks from the Norlander, Rocket Scientists and Lane repertoires, plus covers of Procol Harum's "A Salty Dog" and King Crimson's "In the Court of the Crimson King." The DVD also features a documentary with interviews and additional concert footage.

A nice package that will keep bringing you back. – **John Collinge**

SATELLITE: *Evening Dreams*

2006 (DVD, 96:00); Metal Mind Prod./MVD DR-4487

Style: Neo-progressive rock

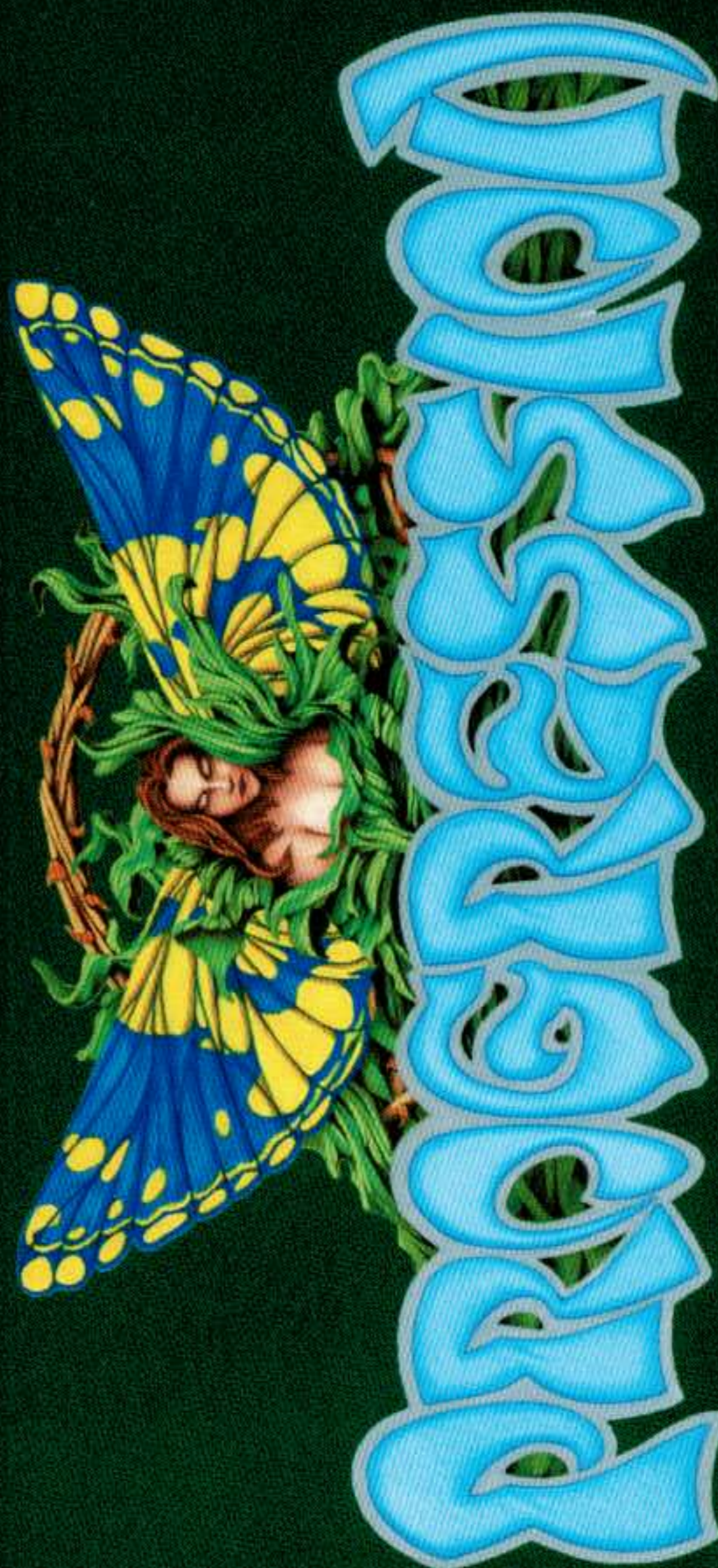
Sound: ★★★ Visuals: ★★ Content: ★★1/2

Performance: ★★★ Total rating: 11½

Despite the hype, Poland's Satellite, founded by ex-Collage drummer Wojtek Szadkowski and featuring other Collage members, should have waited until it had more than two albums out before filming a live DVD. With only nine songs filling 90-plus minutes – including one that was performed twice – Satellite took the stage in a beautiful Polish venue last September and proceeded to impeccably play material from *A Street Between Sunrise* and *Evening Games* practically note for note. With little stage presence and static camera shots, the performance drags. Vocalist/bassist Robert Amirian's sweet, soothing voice hinders Satellite's big neo-progressive sound, and he performs much of the set with his eyes closed. The highlight is a dual drum solo between Szadkowski and guitarist/drummer Sarhan Kabeisi during "Beautiful World."

Among the bonus Polish-language interviews with band members, *Evening Dreams* features four audio tracks taken from Satellite's two CDs – giving new listeners the opportunity to sample more of the band's sound. It's a nice marketing move that more new artists should try.

I really wanted to like this one. — **Michael Popke**



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for all things Gentle Giant, and *Cantus Firmus* – the long-awaited follow-up to its 1997 eponymous debut – does nothing to dispel that notion. From the playful a capella opener "GK Congramundum" and the progressive-symphonic instrumental that follows in "Awaiting the Call," the stage is set for what's to come.

Cantus Firmus is an elaborate work, but somewhat surprising is the pastoral gentleness imbuing much of this material: Henry Ptak's lead vocals are generally restrained and possess an almost hymn-like quality in places. Ptak and brother Mark both play keyboards with Alan Benjamin adding guitars, bass, Stick, mandolin and recorder. Drew Siciliano plays drums.

The focal point of this album is an 18-minute epic called "Ramblin' Sailor." It holds together quite well, from the