



Fairport Convention

{David Robinson}, drummer for {The Cars}, once called the group {Abba} true "craftsmen", and his words ring appropriate for {Fairport Convention} on this lovely 35th Anniversary DVD. There are 19 songs covered on 18 tracks exquisitely captured by the very dependable {Dave Meehan} of {Secret Films} on February 23, 2003 at The Anvil Theatre in Basingstoke, England. This is the {Simon Nicol}, {Dave Pegg}, {Ric Sanders}, {Chris Leslie} and {Gerry Conway} version of the group with appearances by {Anna Ryder} and {Vikki Clayton}. The minstrels are in the gallery, as {Ian Anderson} might say, and this version of {Fairport Convention} takes {Jethro Tull}'s more esoteric aspects and play them for all they are worth. It's a truly inviting journey that captivates via the collective mastery of the string, percussive and vocal instruments. A nine page biography written by {Ian Burgess} is included on the DVD as a bonus, and with the merry-go-round of musicians that have been in this venerable group it is a much needed score card. Some of that information is also played over the ending credits. With three additional vocalists lending and blending harmonies to {Meet On The Ledge} veteran {Simon Nicol} has a heavy eight piece unit backing him on this anthemic closer. The DVD doesn't give much in the way of bonus material, though the tracks are isolated if one chooses to randomly view a song. There's also a 32 minute interview with "Peggy", Simon, Chris and interviewer {Jet Martin}, which is interesting, though the audio quality is low and not reflective of the pristine sound of the concert. {Fairport Convention} has more than a few video tapes and DVDs available and with the decades these musicians have pursued their craft more will no doubt surface. This 35th Anniversary Concert is very special and a good place for those unfamiliar with the group to see and hear what they project in all its glory.

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