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## **Keyboard Legend Rick Wakeman Releases 'Amazing Grace' DVD/CD Combo in the United States**

By Michael Ireland  
Chief Correspondent, ASSIST News Service

**ISLE-OF-MAN (ANS)** -- Music legend and TV/Radio personality Rick Wakeman's name is synonymous with the music which shaped a generation.



During the late 60's and early 70's, he established himself as a well respected and hard working session musician, collaborating with artists as diverse as Black Sabbath, Cat Stevens, Elton John, David Bowie and Lou Reed. Rick's career rapidly evolved and he is probably best known in the music world for his string of multi-million selling hit solo albums and as a member of the folk-band The Strawbs and Progressive-Rock legends Yes.

Now, Wakeman will release a new DVD and CD called 'Rick Wakeman - Amazing Grace' set for North American distribution on June 5.

### **Rick Wakeman at the Keyboards.**

Studio T is pleased to announce the release this project, which is the first of many to be released in a newly formed partnership with Studio T.

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The project is "a timeless collection of beautiful, inspiring, instrumental arrangements of traditional hymns, with variations on some of the most popular melodies and themes ever produced," according to a media release.

"The 'Amazing Grace' DVD & CD package has been arranged and performed by Wakeman and reveals another side to one of music's most gifted and revered personalities. This collection is a stunning and emotive selection of internationally celebrated hymns," the release states.

Also included on both the CD and DVD release is a bonus vocal track of Amazing Grace, arranged and performed by Wakeman, featuring the wonderful vocals of his daughter Jemma Wakeman (aged 24) and The English Chamber Choir.

The release also says: "The DVD features live studio performances from Wakeman on the Grand Piano, crafted with motion pictures, high-end graphics and emotive imagery to bring to life stunning visual interpretations shaped from a collection of material that many will be familiar with, whether from a religious background or not."

Wakeman's unique arrangements of 'All Things Bright and Beautiful', 'Amazing Grace', 'Jerusalem', 'Ode To Joy' and 'Abide With Me' are just some of the hymns featured, which have served both historic and important roles in worldwide Christian communities, and in fact all walks of life.

'Morning Has Broken', which Rick originally recorded with Cat Stevens and subsequently reached the top 10 on both sides of the Atlantic during 1971, is another well-known title also featured in the collection.

Wakeman says: "Some of these melodies are so well known that they easily convey the spiritual message quite beautifully when simply performed without words."

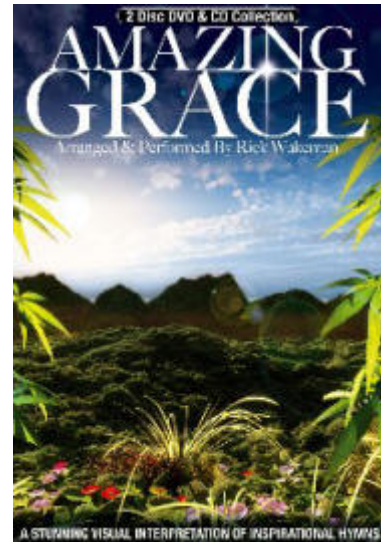
A devoted Christian, Rick Wakeman expresses his love for hymns (yet not all of them admittedly): "I just love what they stand for and the fantastic role that they play in our worship. I also consider the hymn to be an important part of outreach, especially at Easter and Christmas. Not only do some have lyrical and meaningful words that help us all with our worship and understanding, but the melodies are some of the most beautiful ever written."

Wakeman has woven subtle intricacies throughout this 'Amazing Grace' soundtrack and created masterful variations upon the original themes that allow new chord structures and new harmonies to be introduced, which complement the originals without deviation from the desired spiritual path.

This timely release of 'Amazing Grace' on June 5 follows Wakeman's presentation of a BBC One TV Easter Special called "Amazing Grace - The True Story Of The Song," which traces the history and the lasting appeal of the world's favorite hymn Amazing Grace on both sides of the Atlantic. Rick also celebrates Easter Sunday this year with presenter Aled Jones on BBC Radio 2's 'Good Morning Sunday Show' in the UK.

"This 'Amazing Grace' package also highlights the cherished title tune, originally penned by John Newton in the 1770's," the release states.

It adds: "The hymn is subject to somewhat of a commemoration this year to mark the 200th Anniversary of the 'Abolition of the Slave Trade' and its roots are firmly linked to the events that led to the passing of the Slave Trade Act within the British Empire in 1807. 'Amazing Grace', like



**Cover art for Rick Wakeman's 'Amazing Grace' DVD and CD release.**

many of the pieces featured on the soundtrack have proved to produce an unprecedented impact on our society."

The soundtrack will also be available from worldwide Audio Digital Download stores and a Video Digital Download release is also planned for the project.

#### **DVD TRACKS**

- Amazing Grace
- There Is A Green Hill Far Away
- Glad That I Live Am I
- Nearer, My God, To Thee
- All Things Bright & Beautiful
- Jerusalem
- When We Walk With The Lord (Trust & Obey)
- All People That On Earth Do Dwell
- I Vow To Thee, My Country
- When I Survey The Wondrous Cross
- Morning Has Broken
- Abide With Me
- The Day Thou Gavest
- Ode To Joy
- Amazing Grace (Featuring Jemma Wakeman & The English Chamber Choir)

#### **CD TRACKS**

- Amazing Grace (Featuring Jemma Wakeman & The English Chamber Choir)
- Now Thank We All Our God
- There Is A Green Hill Far Away
- Morning Has Broken
- Glad That I Live Am I
- All Things Bright & Beautiful
- Jesu, Lover Of My Soul
- Nearer, My God, To Thee
- Jerusalem
- Come, O Come, Emmanuel
- All People That On Earth Do Dwell
- I Vow to Thee, My Country
- When We Walk With The Lord (Trust & Obey)
- Hills Of The North, Rejoice
- When I Survey The Wondrous Cross
- Abide With Me
- Ode To Joy
- The Day Thou Gavest
- Amazing Grace (Alternative Version)

Official Website: [www.rwcc.com](http://www.rwcc.com)

Hi Res Cover Art is available at: <http://files.dvdnote.com/images/300dpi/dvd5022x.jpg>

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