



Greg Lake  
"Welcome Backstage"  
MVD Visual  
by Jonathan Mariante

This is a rare backstage glimpse at the prog rock godfather and his band, rehearsing and jamming. One might think that watching a band practicing isn't very exciting, but this is in fact quite enjoyable. It's interesting to see the band in action backstage, and they play brilliantly, just as good as you would expect them to at a regular concert. Greg's a legend, and his talents are already widely known, so there's no need to discuss that. He does have a very good band backing him up. One musician that really stood out was his "shotgun" guitarist Florian Opakle. This guy is a brilliant guitarist. I dare say he's right up there with Greg in terms of talent. His playing in the song "Take A Pebble" was especially good. Greg's keyboardists, Josh Grafton and David Arch, are also really good. And of course there's Greg himself, but that goes without saying. He's still as brilliant as ever after all these years. One standout song was the powerful, moving ballad, "A Farewell To Arms". Greg sings his heart out on this one, is backed up very well by the band, and it has a strong message. Another beautiful ballad is included in "I Believe In Father Christmas". And of course there's that timeless fan favorite, "Welcome Back My Friends To The Show That Never Ends". That's just about mandatory. When they finish playing that number, Greg comments on how hard it is to play. "And that's just one song." More commentary and interviews by Greg, his band, and production team are scattered throughout the DVD between songs. Mind you, this isn't a very long DVD, only 45 minutes. However, it's still very cool to see the band at work backstage, something a little different, and they all play and sing brilliantly. For a rehearsal, they put on a pretty amazing performance. There are also some fun facts and comments from Greg and his "posse". Fans should especially dig this.

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