



## 801

Live

MVD Audio

801 was the Roxy Music spin-off band led by guitarist Phil Manzanera and singer/keyboardist Brian Eno, and their *Live* album of 1976 is still regarded as an art-rock gem. Part psychedelic, part techno/ambient, 801 was one of those fascinating U.K. bands that didn't relate to blues-loving American audiences, but this reissue is a great opportunity to hear how exciting they were.

On guitar, Manzanera worked from a palette similar to Robert Fripp, using thick, echoey lines and jagged riffs instead of clichéd blues scales. Listen to 801's technoid reworking of the Beatles' "Tomorrow Never Knows" as "T.N.K.," featuring Eno's otherworldly vocals and a trippy guitar lead. On "East of Asteroid," you hear the guitarist in full gear with a slashing, dangerous solo, spiced up with some fat bass lines from the excellent Francis Monkman (Curved Air, Sky). And speaking of Fripp, the band rolls through the Eno classic "Baby's On Fire" with Manzanera adding a whacked slide solo. Lastly, crank up "Diamond Head" to hear wonderfully spacey and dreamy leads by the Roxy guitar man, the break laden with heavy fuzz and phaser.

If you don't have any 801 records but have a soft spot for mid-'70s art-rock like Roxy Music, *Berlin*-era David Bowie, or Be Bop Deluxe, grab *Live*. It's a killer

album and sports guitar work from a player who seriously deserves more recognition on this side of the Atlantic.

— **Pete Prown**

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