

## DVDs



### Mike Stern Band

#### New Morning: The Paris Concert

Heads Up International

The first thing that strikes one about this performance is the fun everyone had. Stern, drummer Dave Weckl, bass-

ist Tom Kennedy, and saxophonist Bob Franceschini show all the ins and outs of a great jazz band, with all the players playing off each other and obviously enjoying doing it.

Stern is in the upper echelon of guitarists. His jazz chops are beyond reproach, which is proven in the opener, "Tumble Home," where his fiery, imaginative single-line technique is astounding. After Franceschini's solo, Stern is brilliant in chorus after chorus. And just when you think you've heard it all, he shifts effortlessly into a blistering rock solo. It's a truly amazing display in one song!

Through the course of the eight songs here, the viewer is treated continuously. Stern's ballad chops prove wonderful on cuts like "KT," a bluesy, atmospheric tune with Stern's trademark chorused tones.

A nice interview segment follows the band through soundcheck and gives insight to the way they play, their relationship as players, and their love of the venue. It also gives you insight to Stern's personality, how he genuinely loves what he does, and how he continues to learn. The attitude relayed in his interview segment makes it easy to see why he's such a master of the instrument. — JH VG