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Larry Coryell – A Retrospective

Picture: C Sound: B-
Extras: C+ Concert: B

There is a funny moment in **Larry Coryell – A Retrospective** before the concert begins that talks about Coryell's amazing history as a guitarist and how he failed to make the Top 100 Guitarists list for Rolling Stone, for which the magazine gets heckled.

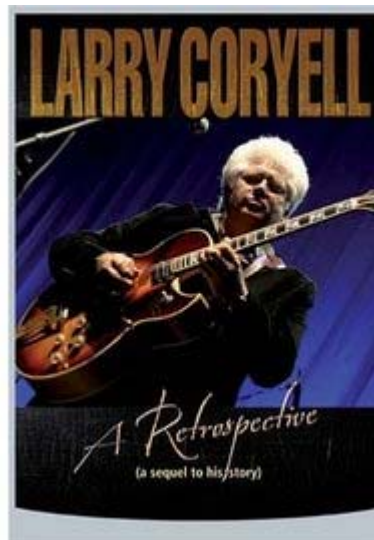
That is not something the great counterculture icon is used to hearing from the grass roots music audiences, but it also shows the dangers of such lists at a time when so much music is so bad.

Fortunately, you get about three hours total music over two DVDs in this set and hear why Coryell is a definite candidate for such a list. Names like Eric Clapton and Jimi Hendrix surface in that opening segment of those who admired him to the point of working or wanting to work with him. This ironically is a show produced in Germany. The tracks here include:

- 1) *After Later*
- 2) *Souls Meeting*
- 3) *Souls Dirge*
- 4) *Hidalgo Rehearsal*
- 5) *Slow Blues*
- 6) *Half A Heart*
- 7) *Valentine Rehearsal*
- 8) *Beautiful Woman*
- 9) *Stiff Neck*
- 10) *Morning Sickness*
- 11) *Beyond This Chilling Wind*
- 12) *Spaces (Infinite)*
- 13) *Dragon Gate*

It is one thing to talk about greatness, but to see and hear it is another story. This is an impressive showing by a master and veteran of guitar in action that puts so many younger so-called musicians to shame and the rest of the band is also very good. If you like Rock, Blues, Soul or guitar, this is a must for you.

The anamorphically enhanced 1.78 X 1 image was shot on digital video,



maybe high definition, and is consistent in some good ways. Unfortunately, it is also softer than one would like also lacking detail and depth. Fortunately, the PCM 2.0 16-bit/48kHz Stereo is better, if not spectacular. The combination is good enough to be engrossing thanks to the subject. Extras include bonus songs, rehearsals and interviews in two parts on DVD 2. It is nice to see a talent finally get his due.

- Nicholas Sheffo