

HARDWARES



MICHAEL SCHENKER GROUP

The 30th Anniversary Concert - Live in Tokyo

(Inakustik)

Reviewed by : [Chris Tighe](#)

Rating : **8.5**

2008's strong release, In The Midst Of Beauty, announced Herr Schenker's return to active duty, and this new live DVD confirms that the German veteran is at long last back in top form. It's damned nice to see and hear him cleaned up and focused on the job at hand. Of utmost importance is that he's surrounded himself with top shelf talent deserving of someone of his stature. Original drummer Simon Phillips and perpetual liger Neil Murray hold down the bottom end nicely, while Gary Barden is thankfully back where he belongs behind the MSG mic, adding some much needed credibility. The latter still looks and sounds great, reclaiming his frontman position with class and ease. Schenker himself proves to be in furious form, nailing his numerous solos immaculately, even forcing himself to actively play with the crowd ... which hasn't always been the case. The only gripe with the concert material would be the song selection. While it's great that a number of new songs made the set list, there's far too much reliance on the first two MSG platters. A scant one track off the uber-cool Built To Destroy album and none off their Assault Attack magnum opus is beyond disappointing. The interview material also proves to be inconsequential, with Schenker simply giving a superficial, sequential run through of the albums that he's been involved in during his lengthy career, providing nary an insight into the music or band members. That said, this still is a great celebration of a career resurrected, caught in crisp, high quality audio and video.

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