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Michael Schenker Group - The 30th Anniversary Concert: Live In Tokyo

The Mad Axeman's resplendent return

Backed by the ultra-reliable likes of Gary Barden, Simon Philips and Neil Murray, the ever unpredictable Schenker knocked out 18 catalogue corkers in January 1980 and reminds everyone that, on his day, he still boasts one of the most impressive axes, and riff caches, in rock.

Some will doubtless wag a finger at this 2-CD collection re-treading familiar territory like an ageing vineyarder, while others will cavil that more recent additions to the repertoire aren't equal to the superior vintages of the past. But Feels Like A Good Thing certainly feels that way, classics such as Cry For The Nations and a pumping, singalong Let Sleeping Dogs Lie are always welcome.

When the spotlight shines on Herr Schenker's frets – as per Armed & Ready – he's unbeatable. A drum solo on Are You Ready To Rock? may have been excised, but A Night To Remember sways along in Scorpions style, while the UFO staples are all present and impressively correct. Only On & On causes a double-take with some odd vocals, and Dance Lady Gypsy is iffy but, otherwise, nigh-on essential.



Inakustik | INAK 9098 CD (2-CD)

Reviewed by Tim Jones

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