

Marillion - Marbles Live (Intact Recordings)

This is basically audio taken from the **Marbles On The Road** DVD. It's a good representation of phase 3 Marillion. Phase 1: The Fish Years. Phase 2: **Season's End - This Strange Engine**. Phase 3: "modern" Marillion. The **Marbles** songs have a mostly mid tempo feel and simple, straight drumming with downbeat melodies.

Angelina and **Fantastic Place** sound much stronger in a live context. Steve Hogarth's voice is much more to the front and Pete Trewavas' bass playing is more defined. **Don't Hurt Yourself** gains more energy as well.

What **Marbles Live** drives home is the chief change over the years in Marillion. The progressive side of the band has ebbed to be replaced by a strong songwriting band. Ian Mosley's playing is more metronomic and economic. Mark Kelly and Hogarth offer more keyboard textures and less solos. Steve Rothery has limited his at one time wide range of guitar sounds to 3, perhaps 4. This is not in any way a knock, just an observation.

Marbles Live has a dozen strong performances of a band solidly in charge of its destiny. The sound is superb, the package simple but nice. Solid Stuff.

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