



Music for the New Millennium

November 16, 2006

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Marillion: Marbles Live

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Party Band in Boise

Great Music for all occasions Watch

Marillion is one of the more under-appreciated of the Progressive Rock outfits in existence. Yes, the band has a hardcore and devout following, but outside of those sectors of fans, there are few that realize how great this band can actually be. In 2004 they released *Marbles* and it would be received as one of the best albums in the bands career. Some of the recent experimentation and diversity they delved into had caused them to lose a number of fans (one of them being me) but with *Marbles* the time was right to return to the fold. The music on "Marbles" would continue to show the level of skill the band had as far as Progressive level Popular Music goes but there would be feels from their old style as well as Pink Floyd and Genesis textures that I felt brought a level of familiarity to their sound. The album is a constant in the way of quality and this live recording brings you to one of the many shows where the group performed the record in its entirety. It's a great live CD if you are a fan of this kind of stuff but is more recommended that the casual listener look into the original CD first and then explore the live effort. There are a number of great songs on the release such as "Invisible Man" and "Angelina" and given the band makes sure to sound as close to the studio album on the stage, one can appreciate their hard work in maintaining that level of quality for this album. As the CD ended, I remembered one specific thought about the Marillion concert that I caught with friends. It was that Steve Hogarth, their singer, had finally seemed to step out of the shadow of the bands first front man Fish. Of course there are others who might feel he did this years ago, but it took me until *Marbles* to find the band appealing once again. Hogarth proves himself on track after track and along with the ever so tight musical presence of Trewavas, Mosely, Kelly and Rothery continue to demonstrate why Marillion is so special to so many.



Track Listing

1. The Invisible Man
2. Marbles I
3. You're Gone
4. Angelina
5. Marbles II
6. Don't Hurt Yourself
7. Fantastic Place
8. Marbles III
9. The Damage
10. Marbles IV

- 10. Marbles Live
- 11. Neverland
- 12. Estonia

Added: November 16th 2006
Reviewer: **Ken Pierce**
Score: ★★★★★
Related Link: **Marillion Website**
Hits: 158
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» **SoT Staff Roundtable Reviews:**

Marillion: Marbles Live

Posted by **Pete Pardo**, **SoT Staff Writer** on 2006-11-16 14:26:00

My Score: ★★★★★

Marble Live is a great companion CD to the already existing live DVD *Marbles on the Road*, and proof positive that the critical success and positive fan appraisal of the *Marbles* CD was no fluke. That album was a fantastic return to form for this long running band, who for a while seemingly tried to veer away from their prog rock roots during the 1990's, but with *Marbles* have for the most part returned to doing with they do best, that is deliver catchy, melodic neo-progressive rock music. This live set features plenty of stellar songs, from the opening epic "The Invisible Man", perhaps one of their strongest tunes from the past 15 years, to gems like "Don't Hurt Yourself", "Angelina", "Estonia", and the various parts of "Marbles". Steve Hogarth is in fine form vocally, and while he doesn't pretend to be the master storyteller that Fish is, he really delivers heartfelt and emotional vocals like very few singers can. These songs obviously go over very well in a live context, and sound right at home in the Marillion set. Atmospheric, emotional, spacey, and adventurous, it's all part of the Marillion sound here. A classy album sounds just as classy in front of a loving crowd-check it out.



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