



- \* \* \*

**MARILLION, "Somewhere Else"**  
 (MVD Audio/Intact) ☆☆☆ — Brit prog rockers Marillion (named after J.R.R. Tolkien's "Silmarillion" novel) have been going strong for almost 30 years and have nearly two dozen albums to their credit. Despite switching vocalists along the way and a sound that's been an ever-evolving work in progress, Marillion are adored in

the U.K. and Europe. America? Not so much. "Somewhere Else" continues the band's recent shift toward a softer, gentler sound. Steve Hogarth has the soaring, emotion-packed vocal thing down pat and Steve Rothery's guitar work remains impeccable, yet something is lacking. The sound isn't especially original — The Frames did the same thing on this year's far superior "The Cost" — and a few of the tunes are out and out duds. "Most Toys" and its "He who dies with the most toys ... is still dead" chorus is a misfire from the start and "The Last Century of Man" has lyrics — "God bless America, I mean it / God bless the U.K., I mean it / Hats off to China, and India / And Africa too" — that are downright cringeworthy. (JS)