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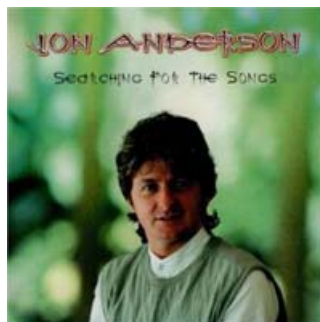
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Editorial



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Searching For the Songs
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“Searching For the Songs” is disc three in the ever evolving twenty disc box set of b-sides, rarities, and live material from the legendary voice of Yes. This particular disc covers most of the unreleased material from the eighties when both Yes and Jon Anderson, solo artist, were trying to keep their years of success from fading away. Anderson all but admits in the liner notes here that his heart is far from in these songs and that they were his attempts to write more pop oriented material in an attempt to keep the machine turning successfully, at least financially.

These 1986 demos are surprisingly good for what they are. “Take Take My Love” is a really catchy tune that would have done well alongside the material on “Big Generator.” “Just Say We’re Children” and “Jessica” may have worked on that album as well, albeit not as smoothly. The highlight here, in addition to “Take Take My Love,” is “Hurry Home,” a quieter tune but amazingly powerful. It makes me feel a lot the same as “Take the Water to the Mountain” does only it’s not quite as intense. There are some really well intentioned but incredibly cheesy moments here as well, in particular “Jessica” and “Strawberry Wine.” The latter is actually a pretty good song, the tag line is so cheesy though that you just can’t take it seriously. Comparing love to strawberry wine....

Overall this is a collector’s piece and as such it’s a great purchase. It’s odd at first to hear Anderson singing lyrics that are less than poetic and often cheesy but it’s an interesting listen when you consider that his future as an artist was in question at the time of these demos. Taken for what it is, it’s a solid purchase for sure.

Key Tracks: “Take Take My Love” and “Hurry Home”

Reviewed by Mark Fisher

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