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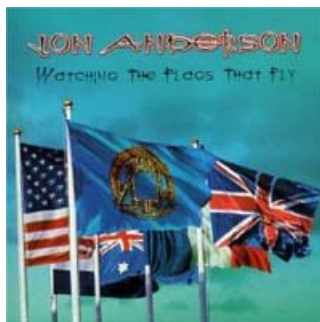
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Editorial



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Watching the Flags That Fly
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“Watching the Flags That Fly” is the fifth album in the Jon Anderson (Yes) “Lost Tapes” box set series from the UK’s Voiceprint label. This album presents fans with fifteen demo songs from 1990. Anderson wrote and recorded these songs as preparation for what would have been the second Anderson, Bruford, Wakeman, and Howe album. As we know now, that album would never happen as both “Yes” bands came back together to record and tour for “Union,” the album which featured two very different bands in peaceful coexistence, making some of the best music they had ever made.

These demos are pretty decent quality just as the demos from the other lost tapes are. Unlike some of the other material, “Watching the Flags That Fly” is very cohesive and all the songs are well done. Anderson seemed to have a very strong vision on these songs and I’m tempted to say that this would have done well as a stand alone solo album for Mr. Anderson. There are a lot of highlights here. The trilogy that opens the CD is excellent, featuring the poppy “Hold You in My Arms,” a more up-tempo version of “Take the Water to the Mountain” (which made it onto the “Union” album), and the introspective “After the Storm.” “Tall Buildings” is an interesting moment with its fifties style rock and roll piano and horn section. It’s a pretty different type of song for Anderson. The ballad “To the Stars” is wonderful as well, although the fake horn is pretty annoying.

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Overall this is probably the best CD in this box set so far. These songs seem more real and personal than the other demo albums. This could have been a contender I do believe. Anderson and Yes fans should hunt this CD down, even if they are interested in collecting the other pieces in this set.

Key Tracks: “Hold You in My Arms,” “Take the Water to the Mountain,” and “To the Stars”

Reviewed by Mark Fisher

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