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John Wetton - Amata

[JOHN WETTON](#)

Amata

([Metal Mind](#))

A journeyman rocker and international star (except in the U.S., of course), singer/songwriter/musician John Wetton has a long, nearly four-decade career in rock, prog and pop music, most notably with King Crimson and Asia. **Amata** presents Wetton as concert balladeer, wielding an acoustic guitar and a pair of low-key sidemen on a set of solo, Crimson and Asia tunes recorded in Poland. Asia's hit ballad "The Smile Has Left Your Eyes" and Crimson's meditative "Book of Saturday" are already tailor-made for this approach, and the Asia smash "Heat of the Moment" also works surprisingly well as an adult contemporary folk song. But Crimson's "Night Watch" could use a little frippery, and Wetton's solo material ("Hold Me Now," "I Believe in You," "Battle Lines") rarely rises above the banal. His voice has weathered well over the years, but one wonders if it's being squandered here. **Amata** is strictly for diehards. *Michael Toland*

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