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## REVIEW

# Music DVD Review: Pendragon - *Concerto Maximo*



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On October 13, 2008, British neo-progressive rock veterans, Pendragon, celebrated their 30th anniversary with a nearly three-hour performance at Katowice, Poland's Wyspianski Theater - and fortunately for us it was all captured on this excellent new concert DVD, entitled *Concerto Maximo*. It would have been nice to see these guys recorded at a different venue for once, as this was three in a row at the Wyspianski, but at least you know you are going to get a quality recording at this place.

Pendragon are currently touring behind their latest album, *Pure*, which many fans are calling one of their very best. I have to agree. *Pure* sounds like Nick Barrett has been listening to a lot of Porcupine Tree lately, as he has taken the band in a much heavier and edgier, PT-like, direction. The album's opening track, "Indigo", is an outright monster, but it was sorely missing from this show. Barrett explained in the interviews that he really wanted to play the song, but that they just didn't have enough time to tackle such a complex number with all of the other songs they needed to rehearse. They are also breaking in a new drummer, Scott Higham, and he had about four hours worth of material to learn for the tour.

*Concerto Maximo* is remarkably similar to Pendragon's 2006 concert DVD, *And Now Everybody To The Stage...*, since it was recorded at the same venue by the same Metal Mind Productions crew. The setlist, however, is what really sets this one apart, as it only features a few of the same songs from their previous two DVDs, and they also debut three of the new *Pure* songs.

Like most other bands of the prog-rock genre, Pendragon have no shortage of multi-part, epics in their repertoire, and they break out a couple of good ones here. The four-part, 18-minute, "Wishing Well", from 2005's *Believe*, really showcases Nick Barrett's amazing guitar skills, and makes for an early highlight of the set. They manage to top that one, later on, dusting off the three-part, 20-minute epic, "Queen Of Hearts", to close out the show.

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Paul Roy is a network administrator by day and amateur music DVD critic by night. When not attending as many live concerts as he possibly can, Paul likes nothing more than to kick back with a good concert DVD and rattle some walls. Paul also publishes his own review site,