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**Rockwell**



**Welcome to Rockwell  
 A Night of Legendary  
 Collaborations**  
 (MVD)

Featured here are highlights from The Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy's "Rockwell" charity event in 2010, staged the O2 Arena in London, England. It's a little over an hour of simply outstanding

musical performances from some of Britain's most iconic performers.

The first band I was unfamiliar with, but they rocked me like it was 1979. Very "new wave" sounding. They are called Razorlight, and after three songs I found myself heading to Google for more info. A tight rocking ensemble.


Robert Plant steals the show for sure, backed by some outstanding World Music players, and putting an entirely new spin on Zeppelin's "Black Dog" and "Whole Lotta Love." I never heard those songs sound better, to be honest. Plant's vocals were no where near high register of his Led days, and I really liked it better. A new, mature Plant, but still a stone cold rocker. His take on the old 1930's blues tune "Feel Like I'm Fixin' to Die," is also spot on good.

Joss Stone also wore me out. I was really introduced to her last year when she was a guest on the Craig Ferguson show. Not only is she a from-the-gut blues singer, she is drop dead gorgeous, and during her Ferguson interview, she was sweet and funny and quite endearing.

On this show, she is backed by a powerful band with three amazing backup girl singers, and when she darted out onto the stage to rock "Free Me," she caught my ear and my eye, in her white mini dress and bare feet. A young lad, but a real sixties soul. She nailed the audience to the wall with her music, including "Super Duper." Two songs were just not enough.

Tom Jones, an artist I can appreciate, but have never been a real fan of, rocked out on his huge hits "It's Not Unusual," with a power house horn section in tow, and "Sex Bomb," before bringing Miss Stone back to the stage for a duet on the classic "It's Your Thing (Do What You Wanna Do)." Talk about burning up the stage.

David Gray is another amazing talent, and a great songwriter. He took the stage with Escala to perform "Babylon" before

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going acoustic solo with "Fugitive."

The highlights reel ends with all of the artists onstage singing "Let it Be," to great effect. The only laughable moment was watching Tom Jones reading the words to the song as he sang it. Really Tom? The Beatles? Let it Be? Seriously, I thought everyone from 40-70 knew the words to that one. Still, he belted it out in true Jones style. Once again, Joss Stone stole the spotlight, but when all was said and done, all of the performers at this benefit concert deserved every bit of the ovation they received.



It's a fine DVD, with crisp video and top quality audio. I recommend turning it up to eleven. After all, these cats and kittens rock well! Very well indeed! •

-Michael Buffalo Smith

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