

# DETRITUS

PENDRAGON - PAST AND PRESENCE (DVD) (A-) Metal Mind/MVD, 2007  
13 tracks, RT: 185:00

[ <http://www.pendragon.mu/> ]

[ [info@...](mailto:info@...) ]

[ <http://www.myspace.com/toffrecords> ]

[ <http://www.mvdb2b.com/> ]

[ <http://www.metalmind.com.pl/> ]

[ <http://www.myspace.com/metalmindproductions> ]

[ <http://www.metalopolis.pl/> ]

Excellent neo-prog outfit Pendragon celebrates the 21st anniversary of its debut album THE JEWEL with a live performance in Katowice, Poland, captured here on this well-packaged and cleverly titled DVD. Opening up with the relatively lightweight "Higher Circles," Pendragon lures us in with a somewhat deceptive track that would indicate a penchant for Asia/Big Country type mid-'80s AOR, but quickly moves into territory more comparable to heavy Marillion, Genesis and Eloy. Longtime vocalist/guitarist Nick Barrett has one of those distinctive accents that fails to disappear when he sings -- and it takes a bit of getting used to -- but once accustomed, his vocals are every bit as stirring and expressive as anyone you care to name in the prog rock universe. Joined along the way by former members Rik Carter, John Barnfield and Julian Baker, Pendragon storms and enchants its way through 15 classic tracks, many of course culled from THE JEWEL. The concert hall employed for this event was obviously chosen for its fine acoustics, as the sound on the recording is absolutely pristine, bringing to life such gorgeously melodic gems as "The Pleasure Of Hope," "Fly High Fall Far," and "Please," while retaining the edge of "Armageddon" and the exuberance of closing number "Stan And Ollie." Suffice it to say, the musicianship is amazing throughout the performance, with soaring guitars, lush keyboards, and a tight, engaging rhythm section the order of the day. Also including a cool interview with Nick Barrett and John Barnfield along with a "Behind The Scenes" segment, bonus video clip featuring original drummer Nigel Harris, a band history, discography and more, PAST AND PRESENCE is a must-have for Pendragon fans, and highly recommended for those fans of progressive rock who may have missed the band the first time around.

- Neal Woodall ([MysticX9@...](mailto:MysticX9@...))