



# MUSIC

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## Music DVD Review: Marillion - *Somewhere In London*

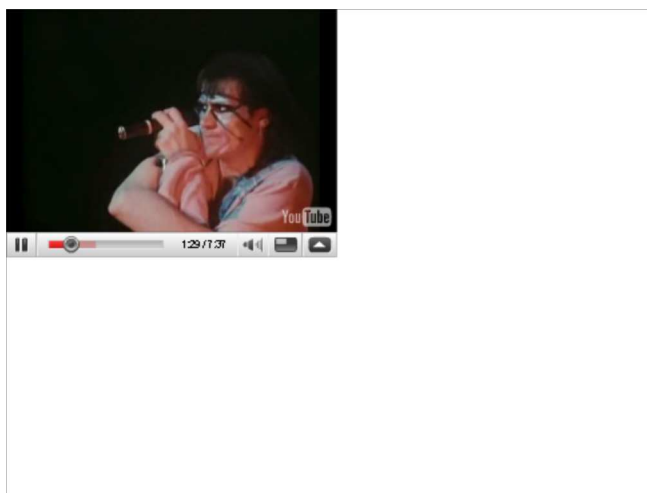
Written by [Glen Boyd](#)  
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For those unfamiliar, Marillion is a band that happened across the "new wave of British heavy metal" (or NWOBHM) scene in the mid-'80s. What made Marillion stand out from the rest of that pack was that they were in fact not a heavy metal band at all, but rather a prog-rock band, and a damned good one at that.

Albeit a latecomer to the prog-rock wars, Marillion's music was nonetheless much in the tradition of '70s prog-rock bands like Yes, and particularly Peter Gabriel-era Genesis, whom they were quite often likened to. Which means that there were lots of synthesizers and Mellotrons, and that the singer dressed up in a lot of goofy-looking costumes.

But this was no accident. At the time led by a theatrically inclined vocalist who called himself Fish, Marillion indeed seemed to quite purposely fashion themselves after Genesis. On albums like *Script For A Jester's Tear* and *Misplaced Childhood*, which yielded the band their only American hit in the song "Kayleigh," Marillion seemed to take their cues straight from the Genesis playbook.



It was great stuff for those who had nostalgic yearnings for '70s prog-rock, but at least in America it was soon enough forgotten once Fish left the band.

Not so in Europe. In fact, not only did Marillion soldier on, they also gained something of a new life. They also developed their own unique and distinct identity with the addition of new vocalist Steve Hogarth on albums like *Anoraknophobia* and especially on the quite brilliant 2004 concept album *Marbles*. The fact is Marillion remained as hot as ever on the other side of the pond.

For my own part, I rediscovered the band last year and found myself quite amazed at how much different they sounded from the Genesis wannabes I remembered from the '80s. The Marillion of today sound absolutely nothing like the band of the Fish years, and with Hogarth have in fact come into their own quite nicely. The guys have always been great musicians — particularly guitarist Steve Rothery who rather effortlessly treads the line between Pink Floyd's David Gilmour and Genesis' Steve Hackett.





[Rockologist](#), as well as at [Cinema Blend Music](#). In a previous life, Glen was a music professional and journalist whose work has appeared in *The Rocket*, *SPIN*, *Pulse!*, and *The Source*. Glen is also seeking an active full-time writing gig. Will somebody please hire this man?

## Comments

#1 – August 15, 2008 @ 14:57PM – Tim Hall [[URL](#)]

I was at the second of the two shows recorded for that DVD - it was a fantastic evening, and the DVD is pretty successful at capturing the atmosphere of that night.

Probably the best I've seen them for at least a decade.

Ironically, one of the other top gigs of that year was Fish.

