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Colosseum Live – Colosseum Lives – The Complete Reunion Concert – Cologne 1994

Picture: C Sound: C+ Extras: B- Concert: B-

Imagine taking Blood, Sweat & Tears or the original Chicago, then add more Classical influence, more Blues and make them very British. Also consider taking Jethro Tull and adding more Blues and Rock. Either way, you would then begin to get the idea of Colosseum, which one member may rightly claim is the first such band of its kind. Any inspiration by or influence either of or on Van Morrison is a separate essay, but **Colosseum Live – Colosseum Lives – The Complete Reunion Concert – Cologne 1994** is a solid new DVD that gives a fine overview of the band then and now.

The new concert runs 113 minutes and is constantly entertaining, though I would not say this is the best music of its kind ever made, but it is a cut above most. Even better, as compared to vintage performances, they fare very well. This should particularly please fans, but offers a great piece of history for the rest of admire, enjoy and appreciate.

The 1.33 X 1 image for the new concert is shot on analog video and has some detail limits, especially with a bit of digititis. The documentary also originated on video and has film footage a few generations down. The concert is in Dolby Digital 5.1 and 2.0, and though the 5.1 is better, it is not by much. The location sound is limited and the 5.1 does not utilize the surrounds much at all. This is not to say the sound is pulled to the center too much, but it is rarely up to what it could be. If you want to hear how good such music can sound, the best example is the DVD-Audio of **Chicago II** (Sound: B+) with its 5.1 MLP tracks. Extras include two very brief text pages on the band followed by several lyrics sheets and the documentary (88:50) as interesting as the concert itself.

- Nicholas Sheffo

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