

PENDRAGON - *The History: 1984 - 2000* · Metal Mind / MVD

Having never heard PENDRAGON before, I wasn't sure what to expect. I generally assume the worst in such situations, and am rarely proven wrong. It was kind of a wash this time. This Prog Rock "best of" collection starts off with a very extended keyboard & guitar instrumental intro that goes just over four-and-a-half minute before the vocals kick in. Everything is very well done, I'm sure, but PENDRAGON sounds like GENESIS with possibly a hint of early ALICE COOPER thrown in, and what sounds like Eric Idle's little bother singing as softly as he can. It's weird to hear a Polish guy singing with an English accent. I can't deny the ability, songwriting, and so on of this band, but it's all just so wispy and fragile sounding that I think I might somehow break the music by simply listening to it. The many instrumental passages can be impressive at times, but when the vocals kick in, any enjoyment I derived dissolves. - 6.5 - <Ray>

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