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Permutations of Yes

By [Tom Von Malder](#)

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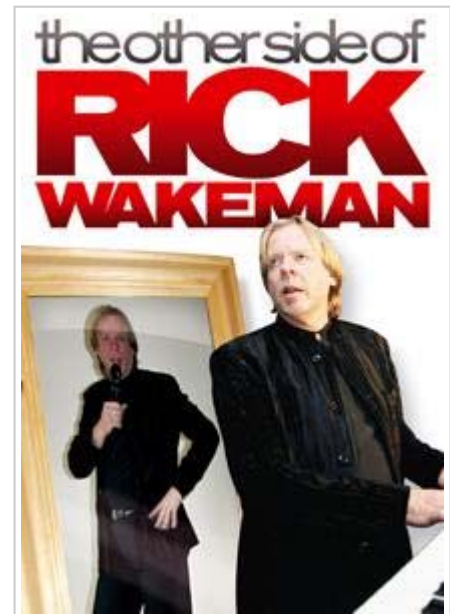
Anderson, Bruford, Wakeman, Howe: An Evening of Yes Music Plus (Voiceprint DVD, 143 min.).

Consisting of four-fifths of the classic lineup of Yes in the Seventies (only Chris Squire is missing), this quartet, put together by Jon Anderson, recorded an eponymous album in 1989 and then embarked on a worldwide tour. This generous-length show was captured on the American leg of the tour.

It opens with brief solo sets by vocalist Anderson ("Time and a Word," "Owner of a Lonely Heart"), who enters the auditorium from the rear and sings while walking down the aisle to the stage; guitarist Steve Howe (a couple of acoustic instrumentals) and keyboardist Rick Wakeman ("Catherine Parr," "Merlin the Magician"), before the whole group launches into Yes' classic "Long Distance Runaround" at the 24-minute mark. The song contains a solo by drummer Bill Bruford. Then comes "Birthright" from their one album ("Teakbois," the bouncy rocker "Brother of Mine" and "Themes" also are covered from the disc). The wonderful central core is a trio of Yes songs: "And You and I," "I've Seen All Good People" and a 19-minute "Close to the Edge." The show ends with "Roundabout," then an encore of "Starship Troop" after the credits roll. **Grade A-**

Rick Wakeman: The Other Side of Rick Wakeman (MVD Visual DVD, 112 min.).

This unusual release finds progressive rock keyboardist Wakeman on stage in a small club, with just a microphone and a grand piano. In between playing, Wakeman tells stories from his life. Among the songs (on which he originally played) are The Strawbs' "A Glimpse of Heaven" (I loved The Strawbs; unfortunately all my albums are only on vinyl), "The Henry Suite" (a distillation of his 1973 concept album, "The Six Wives of Henry VIII," with little bits of each wife's theme), David Bowie's "Life on Mars," Cat Stevens' "Morning Has Broken" and others from his days with Yes and lengthy solo career. His stories include why he was about to marry for the fourth time, his early piano lessons, his work with Bowie and Stevens, and the time his cigarette rolled into the piano and set the felt to smoking while he was playing on Carl Douglas' version of "Fire," appropriately enough. This is a thoroughly enjoyable DVD. A bonus audio track is "Children of Chernobyl." **Grade A**



Keyboardist Rick Wakeman, who has been a member of The Strawbs and Yes and an in-demand session player, reveals a more intimate side and plays fine piano in the DVD release, "The Other Side of Rick Wakeman."

Jon Anderson: The Mother's Day Concert (Voiceprint CD, 77:52).

This afternoon 1996 concert at Martin Brothers Winery in Paso Robles, Calif. was not officially recorded, so the sound is not the best, but it is good enough to capture a relaxed Anderson having fun as he and a small group of musicians perform songs he recorded with Yes, Vangelis and on his solo albums. There is even a dust storm "twister" that forms during "And You and I." From Yes, he also does an acoustic, jam-like version of "Owner of a Lonely Heart," as well as "Wondrous Stories" and "Time and a Word." An American Indian friend, Longwalker, talks about women for five minutes; there's a playful piano bit in "Charlie Brown Theme" and Anderson makes up the words as he sings "Time Has Come," a song he wrote in the Ukraine. "One More Time" is from his days with Vangelis. The CD is the second of 20 in a planned "Lost Tapes" collection; details are at www.jonboxset.com. **Grade B**

Patrick Moraz: Future Memories I and II (Time Wave CD, 73:10). Keyboardist Moraz, who has been a member of both Yes and The Moody Blues, originally released these albums in 1979 and 1984. Both were composed live on TV and, thus, they are obviously exploratory, as in "Eastern Sundays." Each album also had one studio track: "Here Comes Christmas Again" and "Video Games," while this compilation adds the bonus track "More Tea Victor." Moraz remastered the disc himself, part of an ongoing reissue campaign. **Grade B**

Bill Bruford's Earthworks: Video Anthology Vol. 1 (Summer DVD, 115 min.). For many years, Bruford has made jazz albums under the Earthworks quartet label. This DVD, the first of two, was filmed on tour in the

United States in 2001 (the previously released material), Argentina in 2002 and Germany in 2005. There also are three previously unreleased tracks (25 minutes). These recordings marked the debut performance of bassist Laurence Cottle and pianist Gwilym Simcock with the group. They replace, respectively, Mark Hodgson and Steve Hamilton. Playing the saxophones are Patrick Clahar and then Tim Garland. In all, 11 of the 14 tracks have been previously unavailable on DVD or video. The music is melodic, and elegant at times. The next DVD will cover the 1990s. **Grade B**

[Tom Von Malder](mailto:tvonmald@courierpub.com) can be reached at tvonmald@courierpub.com.

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