


John Martyn

The Man Upstairs (Voiceprint)

If ever proof was needed that the most beautiful sounds can come from the most surprising of vessels this DVD supplies ample evidence as the prodigiously talented John Martyn performs a magnificent set of music which is then interspersed with the unappealing boorish bluster of a lifelong drunkard (and he's not even particularly sloshed here). Fortunately it's not necessary to like Martyn to love his music and this show, recorded in 1978, pretty much catches the man at the top of his game having just recorded the timeless *One World* album with Lee Scratch Perry (just imagine the conversations at those sessions? Boggles the mind). 'Certain Surprise', 'Solid Air', 'May

You Never' and 'Couldn't Love You More' are all given truly stupendous airings as are a string of lesser known but no less worthwhile tracks (although the cover of 'Singing In The Rain' is pretty pointless). Martyn fans may be wary of yet more old material - the man has released a huge number of old live sets, many of which are less than essential - but trust us this one is a belter and belongs on any right thinking JM fans DVD shelf.

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