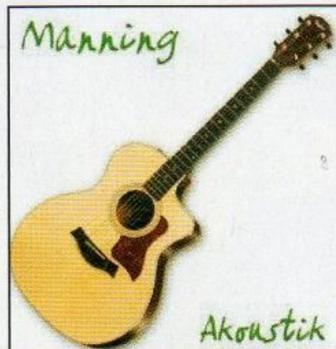


## MANNING

### Akoustik FESTIVAL

Guy Manning unplugged - kracking stuff.

**M**usical maven Guy Manning has bemoaned to this very magazine the dearth of prog-friendly venues able to accommodate the fully tooled, nine-member complement of his eponymous 'Elektrik' band. Thus, pared-down acoustic nights have become a practical way of getting his music out there. Over his decade-long solo career he's built up a catalogue of strongly melodic, folk-inflected music, so this all-acoustic revue of some of his finer moments isn't a drastic departure (it's when Manning keeps things tight like this that he sounds the most convincing).



The spartan, live arrangements here - featuring his band members on woodwinds, keyboards and acoustic guitars - show the strength of the songwriting beneath, from the beautiful *Castaways* from his debut *Tall Stories For Small*

*Children, The Night And The Devil* from *Cascade* and the refreshingly personal *A Place To Hide*. Such songs simply shine in this setting. Until the follow-up to his excellent *Margaret's Children* appears next year, *Akoustik* will do as more than a worthy stop-gap, though that term doesn't quite do justice to this often gorgeous work. **GRM**

Review for PROG MAGAZINE by Grant Moon (Reviews Editor)