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## Manning, Guy - Akoustik

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**Rating: 3.5 / 5**

The great Manning, must by now be a household name in every prog collectors mind! After 12 albums he and his "partners in crime" decided to record the akoustik part of their live set, in a semi live fashion (only recording what they could produce live) no overdubs!! With the exception of a few vocal parts! With songs picked from the entire and vast Manning catalogue and re-arranged to suit the akoustik purpose! Now firstly I must admit that I haven't heard all of Mannings own releases, but I have had the pleasure of hearing him on Parallel or 90 degrees : " No More travelling Chess" 2000. And on the fine The Tangent 4 albums ( among those, the highly praised: " The Music That Died Alone" and/or the excellent: "The World We Drive Through" ) But I have heard his own brilliant " Songs From The Bilston House" from 2007 (read my review and high rating, here on these pages). This new album really shows what a fine composer Manning is!! In true singer/songwriter and / or folk rock tradition his fine special and warm voice (Which sometimes reminds me of the vocal timbre of one Ian Anderson) lead us through the various stories, while his excellent musical friends deliver the perfect backdrop! I think this album should be in any serious music lovers collection! You could see this as a catalogue/ an intro to Manning ´s many releases, just remember there are much more elektrik sequence ´s on his former releases. Akoustik or elektrik, this artist/band really are brilliant, with well arranged compositions, perfectly played delivered and sometimes tunes that are seriously haunting!! Heartily recommended to friends of great music delivered with emotion!!