

MANNING – AKOUSTIK

April 07, 2013 by [Tommy Hash](#)

Genre : [Progressive Rock](#)

Label : F2 Music

Release Date : 4/7/13

Country : UK

Format : CD

Duration : 59min



2012 Festival Music

After countless albums and a rigorous live schedule, the urgency for **Guy Manning** and Co. to record a live album was always in the books considering their mass of material. Taking a slight break after all **Manning's** activity, ideas had been on the table to put forth another studio album, but the sense to reenergize took precedence over immediately rushing writing and recording sessions. Yet, you can't take away Guy Manning from what he does best; so in turn to remain active, recording an album live in the studio, stripped down and fairly executed without any 'tweaking' so to speak, was the logical thing as opposed to gathering a series of recordings spread out over several gigs; putting them together would have it's tumultuous elements including time and financial strains. In the end, recreating the tunes in raw form turned out to be the logical decision.

Manning's music has always been on the more earthy and roasty side, shunning all heavy metal and insane improvisations for something more intimate, and *Akoustik* does just that, it puts you right there in the setting with the band. Adhering to the classic British folk-rock/prog-folk, the plethora of ringing acoustic guitars, tight harmonies, balladry, floating flutes, and the storytelling of **Manning's** expressive demeanor ala Ian Anderson & Richard Thompson are in full form.

Adrift with a light hearted edge, but never monotonous; variants from his catalog are represented, letting tracks "Antares," "Tears In The Rain," and "A Place To Hide" succeed with pop sensibility,

executing hook laden overtones in a more eased unison letting all the catchiness and lyrics speak for themselves, not too mention "The View From My Window" has a real personal touch to it when it comes to expressive pronouncement. You can hear a more jumpy element on the *Songs from the Wood*-esque "Silent Man," with "Castaways" casting a dark and emotional vibe, divested from any overproduced and often ethereal 'new age' anomalies where again, it's about the song itself.

Wrapped up in audiophile sound quality, as there is no excuse that any acoustic like this should sound (as with any release for that matter), again you are in the room with the band; and that's what **Manning** has always set out to do, take the listener to the place to wherever his lyrics and concepts unfold.