

JERRY LUCKY – THE PROGRESSIVE ROCK FILES

Review of Manning – *Akoustik #2 (2014 Festival Music)*

After 14 CD releases you would think a guy is entitled to a break. So it was that such a “break” led to the release of this second “Akoustik” release from Manning. As larger projects gestated, time was set aside to put something together that was shall we say, a little less time consuming. Like the previous Akoustik release the idea was to redo pieces from the back catalogue that could be done “live” without overdubs. That brings us to these twelve tracks, most in the five or six-minute range that re-imagine selected tracks presenting a more mellow, relaxed feel but retaining the distinctive Manning compositional approach and vocal sound. Albums like this tend to give off a more organic feel, more acoustic vibe and that’s true here as well. While not strictly “acoustic” in nature there is still an emphasis towards that sound. As an interim release this is very pleasing stuff, feeling somewhat nostalgic and yet presenting these songs in a new light. It’s all good and a nice addition to the catalogue.

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