

Guy Manning – Akoustik show DanFest, Leicester, Nov 2011

By Brian Watson for the Dutch Progressive Rock Pages

Guy Manning was here with a new album “Margaret’s Children” to promote, his seventh album since 2004, and the seventh consecutive album to gain a DPRP recommendation. However we only got the one track, ‘Revelation Road’, from the new record, this being an acoustic set showcasing over a decade’s worth of high quality output. Guy got to play the acoustic guitar and was ably supported on stage with not one, but two female backing singers as well as members of his electric band on more acoustic-y instruments, including an upright stick bass played by Kris Hudson-Lee, who should be well known to Classic Rock Society members and gig attendees. Keyboards were provided by one A.Tillison, esquire. So nice to see these two sharing a stage again.

He has of course been releasing records since 1999’s “Tall Stories for Small Children” which along with “The Cure” (2000) and “The Ragged Curtain” (2003) also received DPRP recommended reviews. In fact the only two to miss out on this accolade were 2001’s “Cascade” and “The View from My Window” (2003) and both of these received 7 out of 10 ratings. Personal favourite ‘Clocks’ from 2010’s 10 out of 10 album “Charlestown” got an airing, as did ‘Margaret Montgomery’ from 2006’s “Anser’s Tree”, the precursor stylistically to “Margaret’s Children”.

If you haven’t heard any of Guy’s work I’d heartily recommend that you check out some, or preferably all of the aforementioned albums. He was in fine voice, his unique style perfectly suited to the proggy/folky material. Jethro Tull comparisons are made from time to time (OK, just about all the time), but first and foremost Guy is a songwriter, and a storyteller of the very highest order.

Setlist Guy Manning

Silent Man
View from my Window
Clocks
In Swingtime
Tears in the Rain
Castaways
Margaret Montgomery
Night and the Devil
Antares
Revelation Road
Mexico Line
In my Life

