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Music Review: Mick Taylor Band: New Morning: The Tokyo Concert (inakustik, DVD)

By Howard Whitman

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[Mick Taylor](#) may seem like the unluckiest man in rock since [Pete Best](#) was kicked out of the pre-fame Beatles. After all, Taylor's the guy who decided to quit The Rolling Stones in the mid-1970s, just as they transcended from 60s survivors to stadium-filling big-bucks earners. Since his departure, Taylor's put out three solo albums and plays sporadic live gigs, including this one, filmed in 2009 in Tokyo, Japan. Backed by an excellent band that includes ex-[Jeff Beck](#) pianist Max Middleton, Taylor is a laid-back, modest frontman here, singing his songs in a pleasant if unremarkable English blues voice--fitting, as this seven-song, 100-minute set is all about the blues. Of course, it's Taylor's guitar playing--not his vocals--that takes front and center here, and for good reason: The man can wail. He may not be speedy or a technical whiz, but every note has feeling and soul. He's especially effective when he whips out the bottleneck and plays some slide guitar. If this is reminiscent of anything, it's of the aforementioned Jeff Beck during his 1970s instrumental jazz/blues period. This isn't the most exciting concert DVD you'll see--Taylor and his band pretty much stand there, focused on the music, which is well-served by a clean, spacious sound mix. But if you crave music with lots of heart, there's plenty of that on display here.

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