

ProgSheet Reviews

Donovan - The Donovan Concert Live In L.A. (**Raven Productions / MVD Visuals**)

This concert was originally filmed for PBS, and I know this because the PBS sponsor bumpers are at the start of the program. Donovan is then introduced by filmmaker David (*Lost Highway*) Lynch, followed by a short history of Donovan video montage. Supported by bassist Tom Mansi and percussionist Stewart Lawrence, Donovan is in great voice and solid on acoustic guitar and occasional harmonica. The set, from January 2007, opens with the reggae-tinged There Is A Mountain. The video and audio are immaculate - clear as a bell in both respects.

A good chunk of Donovan classics are performed - Catch The Wind, Happiness Runs, Jenifer Juniper, Sunshine Superman, Season Of The Witch, and Hurdy Gurdy Man are among the many songs here. Daughter Astrella Celeste joins him for a few numbers, and Beach Boy Mike Love adds his voice to Mellow Yellow. It's Donovan who sells the show, though. Utterly engaging and unpretentious, he bonds well with the crowd. A happy hippie still spreading songs of love and tuneful joy.

The DVD includes a few bonus numbers - most notably the delightful Lalena. If you are a Donovan fan, or just appreciate great songwriting, this DVD is guaranteed to satisfy.