

EXPOSE

Fairport Convention and Mathew's Southern Comfort – "Maidstone 1970"

(Voiceprint TPDVD105, 2007, CD)

The mere fact that this long bootlegged video has now been officially released should be at least a minor cause for celebration. The uncovering of the original footage filmed by Tony Palmer and restored to DVD shows the *Full House* line-up in all its glory with a straight performance of the band's typical set list. The location for the gig was a forest nearby a US airbase, which set the idyllic tone for the best representation of the core band chemistry that extends all the way to Cropredy. Only five Fairport tunes are presented and 2 by the ex-Fairport lead singer's band Southern Comfort but there's plenty to be pleased with. The set opens and closes with the band doing it's typical jigs and reels set with Richard Thompson and Dave Swarbrick making sweet unisons together which would cement the trademark sound of the band. Simon Nicol's top-notch rhythm guitar foil together with then-new bassist Dave Pegg anchored the lot with Dave Mattacks propelling the unit onward. Nicol's intro leads into the group song "Sir Patrick Spens" that carries signature Fender guitar lead style he would rely on to this day. Even the Fairport humorous banter is on display with Swarb and Thompson serenading a US helicopter takeoff during the show. Just how young these musicians were at the time is stunning visually, creating a 'wish I were there' feeling for any long time fan. – *Jeff Melton* **É**