Satriani - Vai – Petrucci - G3 Live in Tokyo (2005)

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CD 1 John Petrucci 1. Glasgow Kiss 2. Damage Control Steve Vai 3. The Audience Is Listening 4. Building the Church 5. K'm-Pee-Du-Wee CD 2 Joe Satriani 1. Up in Flames 2. Searching 3. War G3 Jam 4. Foxey Lady 5. La Grange 6. Smoke on the Water Line Up:: Joe Satriani Band Joe Satriani - guitar Galen Henson - guitar (rhythm) Matt Bissonette - bass Jeff Campitelli - drums Steve Vai Band Steve Vai - guitar Dave Weiner - guitar (rhythm) Billy Sheehan - bass Tony MacAlpine - keyboards, guitar Jeremy Colson - drums John Petrucci Band John Petrucci - guitar Dave LaRue - bass Mike Portnoy - drums G3 Jam Joe Satriani - guitar, vocals on "Foxey Lady" Steve Vai John Petrucci - guitar Matt Bissonette - bass , vocals on "Smoke on the Water" - guitar Billy Sheehan – bass, vocals on "La Grange" & "Smoke on the Water" Mike Portnov - drums on "Foxey Lady" Jeff Campitelli – drums on "La Grange" & "Smoke on the Water"

G3 returns in fine form with "G3 Live in Tokyo". The same formula as the last two g3 DVDs is repeated. Joe Satriani teams up with Steve Vai and find a third guitarist worthy of sharing the stage with them. Each member performs his own set and then all 3 jam on stage together. It worked on the previous 2 DVDs and it works again. This time, with the addition of John Petrucci of Dream Theater/LTE, is the best time. Yes, there is only 90 minutes worth of music, but if you want the full G3 experience go see them. The 90 minutes is a great deal for under \$15. Now to the show:

John Petrucci plays a couple of songs from his "Suspended Animation" disc. I saw G3 with Petrucci back in 2001 and thought that he should release the music he was playing. Now he has. Both songs showcase Petrucci's ability to combine speed, tone and phrasing in an instrumental form. Both songs have a couple of tone and time changes, and Petrucci shows why he is considered one of the best guitarists in the rock genre. (Or any genre for that matter)

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Fans of Dream Theater or any of John's other projects won't be dissapointed. John is joined by, DT drummer, Mike Portnoy and Dave Larue of Steve Morse and Dreg's fame. The rhythm section is solid and all over John's music. A very good set.

Steve Vai is next and continues to be the most energetic of the G3 members. Vai opens with "The Audience is Listening" from Passion & Warfare and it is a blistering version. Steve and bassist Billy Sheehan go wild during this song. They trade fours, exchange picking hands, and play some high speed unison lines. These two have been mesmerizing together since the David Lee Roth Band, and have taken their showmanship to new levels. "Building the Church" and "K'm-Pee-Du-Wee" are the other Vai tunes and Steve is his amazing self. Vai has been guilty of composing tunes that I can't identify with, but these are both great compositions and Steve's playing is true virtuosity at its best. Great set from a great showman.

Joe Satriani's set is also very good. He plays great versions of "Up In Flames" and 'Searching' but is guilty of not stretching out as far as he can. Still, both of these songs are excellent and show Satch's unparalled ability to combine catchy melodies with guitar virtuosity. 'War' is a song that Satch stretches out on and improvises a unique ending. Excellent version.

As always, the DVD ends with all 3 guitarists on stage. "Foxey Lady" is the first tune. Mike Portnoy plays drums on this tune. How can you go wrong with these 3 guys jamming to Jimi? The last two songs have Jeff Campitelli on Drums and Billy Sheehan joins Matt Bisonette on bass. The two bassists alternate taking the vocal duties and do a decent job. Both songs feature each guitarist taking a solo spot and then all 3 trading 4s at the end. More G3 madness done right. As always, if you aren't a fan of guitar, you won't be a fan of this. If you are a fan of any of these three, then you should get this. I am a fan of all 3, and find it to be the best of the 3. ---Jeff Arenson, amazon.com

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