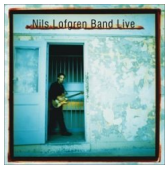
Nils Lofgren Band - Live (2003)



CD1:
1. Puttin' Out Fires 7:57
2. Daddy Dream 8:18 *play*
3. Too Many Miles 6:19
4. Driftin' Man 5:02
5. Damaged Goods 5:57 *play*
6. Two By Two 3:11
7. White Lies 3:58
8. Band Introduction 1:17
9. Shot At You 8:16
10. Tears Ain't Enough 4:25
11. I'm Buyin' 2:58

CD2:
1. I Don't Wanna Talk About It 3:58
2. Like Rain 4:52
3. I Found You 4:59
4. Can't Get Closer 4:36
5. Lost A Number 5:12
6. Slippery Fingers 4:22 *play*
7. Message 12:14
8. Girl In Motion 11:09
9. Bass & Drum Intro 3:29
10. Gun And Run 5:06 *play*
11. The Star Spangled Banner 2:53
12. First Time Ever I Saw Your Face 6:41

Personnel:
Nils Lofgren (vocals, guitar, keyboards);
Wade Matthews (vocals);
Michael Lofgren, Paul Bell (guitar);
Tom Lofgren (synthesizer);
Timm Biery (drums, percussion).

Bruce Springsteen has frequently introduced Nils Lofgren as the "greatest, most overqualified" second guitarist in rock & roll. And Lofgren will certainly be remembered as one of the great team players, first as second chair to Neil Young, more recently with the E Street Band. The fact that the Rolling Stones wanted him to replace Mick Taylor and those early tours leading Ringo Starr's band blurs the fact that Lofgren has created some terrific music of his own. This 2003 release is his fifth official live album, and while not quite the raucous affair that 1977's Night After Night, it still proves Lofgren to be a formidable talent as a guitarist, singer, songwriter, and bandleader. The set list touches on more obscure moments from his career, dating back to four tunes from his early trio Grin, one from his debut LP, and a touching tribute to long-deceased Crazy Horse co-guitarist Danny Whitten via the latter's "I Don't Want To Talk About It." Lofgren produces a wonderful guitar sound--and covers of "The Star Spangled Banner" and Roberta Flack's "First Time Ever I Saw Your Face" (a studio bonus track) reveal that he still possesses one of the more beautiful and soothing voices in all of rock music. --Bill Holdship

This is a fabulous live set from one of the most underappreciated musicians in rock today. Nils Lofgren clearly deserves more recognition than his has gotten over the course of his thirty plus years in show business. This live set documents the fire, passion, and beauty that fuels Nils Lofgren's music. Most of the songs on this two CD set have never been recorded live before, and it is a real treat to hear old Grin songs like "Lost a Number" and "White Lies" alongside new tunes like "Puttin' Out Fires" and "I Found You." One track that deserves special mention is the song "Message." I first heard this song in concert more than 20 years ago, and though it has not been available on disc before now, I never forgot the emotional power of that song. That one song alone is worth the price of this set, but the rest of the show shines brightly, too, from beginning all the way to it's ending with a stirring rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner."
---Jeffrey B. Henriques

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