

Jethro Tull
August 23, 2007
The Old Train Station, Jerusalem

Classic prog-rockers Jethro Tull kicked off three Israel appearances at Jerusalem's most fashionable new outdoor venue with only veteran members Ian Anderson and Martin Barre on stage.

After the duo's acoustic "Someday the Sun," they were joined by bassist David Goodier, keyboardist/accordionist John O'Hara and Seth Green look-alike drummer James Duncan for the seasoned band's anthem-like "Living in the Past," which was, ironically, first released in the Sixties. Also making an appearance early on in the set list was "Thick as a Brick," which thankfully received the ten-minute progressive jam treatment, rather than the three-minute radio edit one. The band was tight and skilled, giving the impression that they were holding back on the improvisations that they are capable of as a unit. Not that Jethro Tull was in any way going through the motions on Thursday night: Even obligatory crowd pleasers like the iconic "Aqualung" were given fresh arrangements that shook up the crowd's expectations.

Anderson joked that his arrangement of J.S. Bach's "Bouree" had transformed it into "porno-jazz" before the band launched into a version of the tune that resembled the orchestral version heard last year in Ra'anana far more than the 1969 LP version (not to mention Tenacious D's "Classico," a "Bouree" send-up). Here, as throughout the night, Anderson's flute work led the melodies, but it also served to accent rhythms, thanks to his intricate beatbox-like tongue-rolls and gasps into the flute-mic. The band got even headier when they busted out Keith Emerson's progged-out arrangement of *West Side Story*'s "America," which included teases of everything between "When the Saints Go Marching In" and "Purple Haze."

By the time the last bars of "Locomotive Breath" completed the encore, the capitol's multi-generational classic rock aficionado community seemed like it was satiated enough.