Rush

A Show of Hands

The Definitive Live Album:
Over 70 Minutes of Music from the 1988 World Tour
Includes: Time Stand Still, Big Money, Marathon, Closer to the Heart
2 LP Set 836 346-1, Chrome Tape 836 346-4, CD 836 346-2
Certainly untaxing entertainment. All the stage favourites are here, from the anthemic Distant Early Warning to Subdivisions and Red Sector A, and each is presented with a clarity of sound and purpose that belies the nature of the album's recording. Indeed, so small is the audience participation (occasional cheers, intermittent clapping) and so faithful is the reproduction of the studio versions of the songs that you could ask why bother with a live recording at all. Perhaps it is there simply to accommodate a 4½-minute drum solo that might otherwise have struggled to find its way on to vinyl. ★★★

Emily Fraser

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PHONOGRAPH 836 346 LP/Cass/CD

Fifteen live tracks — eight of which were recorded at the Birmingham NEC last year — from a band who are the Dire Straits of heavy rock. Everything about Rush is polished and shiny with no rough edges. Their use of harmonics, ambient keyboard sounds and steady rhythms also means that they are not exactly easy listening but...