

6/10 SONGDOG – A WRETCHED SINNER’S SONG (JUST)

IT’S unusual to hear genuine folk music in a modern context, in a marketplace where commercial success is often reliant on the artist’s ability to fit their material to the current fad.

In sound terms, Songdog don’t sound a hell of a lot different to the quieter end of Dire Straits, but the similarity doesn’t extend much beyond that.

Where Knopfler *et al* ensure, by design or otherwise, that every collection has a couple of tracks that are likely to appeal to listeners beyond the band’s established fanbase, Songdog are happy to make their point slowly.

Singer and songwriter Lyndon Morgans tells his stories over the course of a few tunes, using song cycles to group similar themes.

As such, *A Wretched Sinner’s Song* is broken into two parts – a first half that deals with lust and guilt and a second half that deals with love and melancholia.

The latter section is far superior in terms of the accessibility of the songs, with *Pilgrim Hill* and the title track being particularly lovely. A collection out of its time. – BD

