



August 2023

Hey folks!!

Hot enough fer ya? Remember last month when I opened the Enewsletter with “Summertime, and the weather is....uh, NOT stifling! Not even scorching! Ok, it’s kinda cool and nice!”? Well, apparently my comments do not go ignored by Mother Nature and she has a vicious sense of humor....welcome to the hottest summer in the recorded history of civilization! My bad!

We had a very exciting July! Earlier in the month, super-fan Andrea Tutrani, who resides in Cozumel, Mexico, traveled up north for family purposes, but was disappointed when she discovered that her scheduling didn’t allow for attendance at either a *Manticore* performance or a Carl Palmer Legacy show (obviously poor planning)! However, since it’s in our

bylaws that **Manticore** cannot let any fans go away unhappy, we arranged for a personal rehearsal/concert that Andrea was able to fit comfortably into her itinerary! It's a service we offer to foreign dignitaries (and any **Manticore**/ELP fan coming from out of town



becomes a “foreign dignitary”, apparently). We had done this previously for friends Nigel & Tracy Hewitson, who were visiting from the UK for Carl Palmer’s first outing with his Return of ELP Tour in 2022, and they couldn’t fit a **Manticore** show into their agenda.

Soon after Andrea returned to the Yucatan, we were invited to attend one

*A legendary drummer.
A new medium in visual art.
The most limited release imaginable.*



Carol & Frank Serse

cordially invite you & a guest to an exclusive private showing of

CARL PALMER'S ART COLLECTIONS:

TWIST OF THE WRIST,

THE RHYTHM OF LIGHT and MY LEGENDS

Iconic British drummer has released over 30 images using unique blend of rhythm, art and modern photography. Carl Palmer will be there to discuss this art and his career.

*Carl will share his proceeds with this charity event to benefit
D.E.A. Widows & Children's Fund*



WHEN: Mon, July 17, 2023 7:30 PM
WHERE: [REDACTED]

Carl Palmer, one of rock's iconic figures, and a founding member of both Emerson Lake & Palmer and ASIA, in association with Los Angeles art company Scene Four, and Pilato Entertainment has released three signature collections of fine art, created completely from rhythm. Twist Of The Wrist, Rhythm Of Light and My Legends by Carl Palmer include signed and numbered prints on canvas featuring stunning visual images constructed from drum performance. Working with acclaimed L.A. art team Scene Four, the artwork featured in these collections combine motion, color, and lighting into some of the most compelling fine art. www.carlpalmerart.com

of Carl Palmer’s exclusive art shows at the home of ELP enthusiast and friend to **Manticore**, Frank Serse up in New Windsor, NY. Frank is not only an ELP mega-fan, he’s also the proud owner of one of Carl’s former drum kits. It was at this affair that **Manticore** had the privilege of hanging and schmoozing with the artist himself. It was an incredible opportunity, to get to socialize with Carl in a relaxed atmosphere, free from the time constraints of a

concert meet-&-greet, where there'd be a long queue to go up, shake the artist's hand, get a quick selfie and an autograph and move along. We had time to ask Carl about virtually anything. He spoke to us about his monitor setup on stage, his associations and interactions with other world-class musicians, the times he spent with drumming legend Buddy Rich, and even about his relationship with his former bandmates, Keith Emerson & Greg Lake. He also talked about how he appreciates what *Manticore* does and floated the



possibility of *Manticore* playing at his next

Carl Palmer ProgCamp, tentatively slated for the Fall of 2024. And then he said, "We'll give you our set list in advance, however...we don't want you guys playing the same songs we're doing!" Fine with us. We currently play a lot of material that ELP almost NEVER played live, so we had no worries about conflict. Before we left that nite, Bruce was gracious enough to extend an invitation to the band to come to sound check at the last show on Carl's current tour at The Space in Westbury NY, for which we already have third-row tickets.

On July 22nd, *Manticore* performed at New Jersey's [Debonair Music Hall](#) with the astounding original prog band Ad Astra opening for us. The show was a blast and a good time was had by all. Bob Konig, DJ for WFDU-FM radio was there to introduce both bands and



several notables showed up, not the least of whom was Jason Kresge, founding member and keyboardist for Orpheus Nine, Tom Palmieri and Ann Rinaldi, proprietors of ProgStock, Kathy Sheppard, keyboardist for Curiosity Shoppe (and formerly of Project: Object) and Michael Ponella, guitarist from 45 RPM (and brother of our bassist, Ron), who helped our Road Manager, Jesse (his nephew) with tech duties.

The wildest thing that happened in July was at the final Carl Palmer Legacy Band's "The Return of ELP" show of this tour, at The Space at Westbury in Westbury, NY on the last Saturday in July! ~~Anticore~~ went as a band, third row center seats - not too shabby - as planned. But since we were invited to attend the sound check, we arrived at 4:30, and from the moment we arrived, we were met with nothing but warm welcomes. Paul Bielatowicz and Simon Fitzpatrick were onstage, fine-tuning their setups, Andrew Noto (Carl's drum tech, tour support and longtime friend to ~~Anticore~~) was running around taking care of essential duties, and Carl was sitting at his drums, giving Steve Supparits (amazing longtime sound tech for the CPLB) sounds to work with to refine his thunderous live drum sounds. We introduced ourselves to the security staff, said brief hellos to Paul and Andrew, and headed over to the merch table to chat with Bruce Pilato (Carl's manager - formerly Greg Lake's manager) who was gracious enough to invite us. Bruce and Chris Noto (ELP's official archivist, brother to Andrew and also longtime friend to ~~Anticore~~) were busy at the merch table, but they stopped what they were doing to say hi and greet us. Bruce mentioned that Carl preferred that listeners sit a little further back during sound check and we weren't there to intrude, so we plopped ourselves down in some empty seats in the back two rows of the orchestra, in front of the mixing board. We hung out for a bit, just listening, talking quietly amongst ourselves and checking our emails. After about 15 minutes, Carl came back and sat with us and just made some small talk, saying he was glad to see us and asking how we thought the drums sounded (they sounded awesome). He and John started talking about



stage drum miking techniques and having live-sounding drums as opposed to muffling the crap out of them. Then, after a brief lull in the conversation, John touched Carl on the shoulder and quietly said, “you know...I have very few things in what I would call a ‘bucket list’....” and no sooner had he said that, than Carl finished his sentence with “what, would you want to sit behind my drums? Sure, c’mon up. We can do that right now.” After we all picked our jaws up from the floor, John went galloping up the big aluminum ramp that was running from the

center aisle up to the stage, with Carl following behind him. I looked at Ron when we recovered and said, “well I think we’d better go up, too, and get some pictures!” And we both went trailing along right after them. While John was in all his glory, getting comfortable at the kit, grinning from ear to ear, everyone else around took about a million photos and videos, to capture the moment. Carl hung out and posed with John and the drums and they continued their conversation about techniques and stick treatments (where John uses the sex wax that surfers use, Carl prefers



surgical spirits on his sticks). After about 10 minutes, John was getting up to go and Carl offered, “did you get some pictures? Let me come over to THIS side and you can get some” and John sat right back down, still in shock. We took about a million more photos, thanked Carl profusely and floated back down to our seats. A few minutes later, Carl came back down to where we were recovering and showed John what he was using on his sticks and stayed with us for a bit, before he started preparing to go back up to the stage. “You know I’m going to be doing my ProgCamp again next Fall....around November 2025, and you guys are going to come play.” I said to him, “well, I don’t know....we haven’t been officially invited....” And he turned around to me, bowed and said, “fine, then here’s an official invitation... *Manticore* is officially invited!” We all just bowed back and said, “ABSOLUTELY! We’ll be there!” It was at that moment, we all noticed that it was getting really hot in the auditorium and Carl started yelling to everyone working in the room that someone needs to get the air conditioning back on and it was then that we found out that the AC in The Space was having issues.

It was getting kinda hot in there and we decided that this would be a good time to go for some dinner. Before coming, I did my research and scoped out a decent-looking restaurant just right across the street and as we were

gathering up our stuff to head out. I saw Andrew and asked him if he was eating in the Green Room or if he’d like to come with us and he said, “sure” and went to go check something first. As he ran off, Pauly Bee was just coming up the side aisle and I asked him the same question. He had nothing going on, so he and some



of the other crew members decided to join us. We opened the side door and Andrew was already out there waiting, so the eight of us headed across the street to El Nopal for some fine Mexican cuisine. They let us pull a big table over next to a booth and we were all able to sit together. We ordered drinks (I was



the only “adventurous” drinker, ordering Sangria while everyone else had either soft drinks or water....what? I wasn’t playing or working!!) and we good-naturedly chided the waitress about remembering all of our

selections (she was spot-on) and menu choices. The food was excellent, as was the service and the company, and *Manticore* picked up the tab for dinner. It was the least we could do to show our appreciation. Afterwards, Paul and the crew hustled back to the stage door while we left the restaurant and hung back for a bit, talking to other show attendees that were approaching and slowly starting to accumulate by the venue’s main entrance.



We found our seats and sat shoulder to shoulder, enjoying the performance from our regal thrones located third row, center. A truly

stunning show, with the video and live audio mixed flawlessly together. Anyone that misses seeing ELP live should catch this tour if you can when it resumes in the fall. Yeah, I know....initially I had the same trepidation about it being creepy or odd, but after having a



a chance to see it last year, I loved it and I am fortunate to have been able to catch it again this year. It really is an homage to Keith & Greg, and along with Paul and Simon's solo sections, Keith and Greg both have solo portions of the show, in addition to the ensemble work with either just Carl or Carl and the boys.



The final song of the show is Aaron Copland's Fanfare for the Common Man, which lasts about a quarter hour and is performed by Keith, Greg and Carl without Simon and Paul. It's at this point in the show that Paul and Simon have nothing to do for 13 or so minutes, so Paul initiated the Fanfare Challenge for

his Patreon viewers to enjoy (video is attached to this Enewsletter, below). Each night, during Fanfare, he and Simon would leave the theater and do something intrepid. Earlier in the tour, they hunted for Geocaches, which,

if you're unfamiliar, is like a global internet-fueled treasure hunt, where members have an app on their phones and are given hints and clues to the location of a hidden capsule that contains a tiny journal log in it. Members use the phone app GPS function to locate this "treasure", sign their name to the log sheet when found and return it safely to its hiding place for someone else to find. It's a fun activity that you can do in most places around the world and some cities have hundreds or even thousands of geocaches hidden in them - as long as you have an internet connection, you can play. Having gotten bored with Geocaching early in the tour, they invented new and (hopefully) more exciting things to do with their time - from hanging around the merch booth, to writing songs or learning parts on the fly for the next time they go up onstage.... So on this last night of the tour, Paul invited me to join them for the Final Fanfare Challenge! As soon as Carl walked up to his microphone at stage front to introduce Fanfare, Paul exited the stage, but not before signaling me from the stage to come on back. So I excused myself from our aisle and crouched around, so as not to obstruct anyone's view while I made my escape to the backstage door. Being that it was the end of the show, security to get backstage was light (absent) and I found them hanging out backstage in the wings watching the show. I looked around and soon encountered Paul and Simon approaching from the downstairs Green Room, Paul already filming with his phone, and we were off. We left the theater chatting for a bit and trying to come up with a viable, fun activity for tonite's challenge. Totally bereft of ideas, after almost a dozen shows and challenges completed, it became apparent that it was going to be up to ME to figure out what an acceptable challenge might be. After tossing several unappealing




choices out there - walking to the LIRR station and taking a train into Queens and back was quickly discarded, and going back to my house to pick up my hi-intensity fans was no longer a necessity, so I offered “how about we go to a local pub or bar and get some drinks?” We collaborated and realized that there probably wasn’t enough time to sit and have a few pints, but we COULD go in and do some shots! We strolled across the street to the His & Hers Bar & Lounge (three doors down from El Nopal Mexican restaurant, where we dined just hours before), entered and bellied-up to the bar seeking the bartender.

Fanfare Challenge video:



As my addled old brain defied me to remember the ingredients in a Kamikaze shot, and the barkeep laughed when I told her that an Alabama Knockout show requires sloe gin (s l o w w h a t ? s h e asked)...never mind, I saw Captain Morgan sitting right there in front of me.

“You guys ok with rum? I mean, it’s not like you’re in intermission and going back to play another set...”. No, of course not. Rum it was. We had more than ample time to down our shots (could’ve done a second, but why push it), conclude our conversation with Monica the Bartender, pay our tab, and head back to the theater. We walked back into the front entrance, heard Fanfare still blasting away, checked the merch booth, just cuz, walked into the main auditorium just in time for Paul’s phone battery to die! So I returned to my seat, Paul and Simon went back up to the stage in time to play the last few notes of Fanfare with Carl, Keith and Greg and finish the show. Final Fanfare Challenge MET!

We finished off the night by running out the front door of the theatre just after the last note was played and gave out as many  calendars to exiting attendees as we could. We wanted to be as unobtrusive as

possible during the show, not to distract from the Carl Palmer experience, but after, we wanted to make sure every ticket holder leaving the venue would know who **Manticore** is and where we are going to be.

Thank you Carl Palmer, Bruce Pilato, Paul Bielatowicz, Simon Fitzpatrick, Andrew Noto and Chris Noto, for a spectacular day, an amazing night and a compelling adventure!
What a way to wind up the month of July!



Onward to August. August promises to be enjoyable. Some time in early August, I'm hoping to head over to [EMEAPP](#), in Harleysville PA, to start working on something with the guys there and Keith's gear, to honor the 50th anniversary of the Brain Salad Surgery album. We're working up something big - maybe with multiple artists and bands - but it's still in the talking stages. That's ok, I still need to start prepping.....once they make a decision, I'm sure it'll be like a snowball and pick up momentum really fast, so I want to get out in front of it. If something DOES develop soon, I'll be sure to load up some videos of my process and progress on YouTube.

The main thing you'll want to know about August, though, is **Manticore's** return to the [Towne Crier](#) in Beacon NY. The [Towne Crier](#) is a wonderful venue with awesome sound, a nice size stage and great food. Two years ago, right after the pandemic broke, **Manticore** played The Towne Crier with Paul Bielatowicz, guitarist from Carl Palmer's Legacy Band, opening for us and joining us onstage. Paul isn't going to be with us this time.

In addition, at the end of August, **Manticore** will be traveling - as a band - across The Pond to cheer on our British Brothers, [Noddy's Puncture](#), when they play the [Nene Valley Rock Festival](#) in Peterborough UK, when they are

NENE VALLEY ROCK FESTIVAL
 Nene Park, Peterborough, 31 Aug - 3 Sept (subject to contract and licences)
 The boutique feel of a club atmosphere in a festival setting - just 1,000 tickets!

Seven & Haven stages
 These alternate so you can see every band

PROG Extravaganza Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NODDY'S PUNCTURE Shajimes	TEN YEARS AFTER	COLOSSEUM	CRAZY WORLD of ARTHUR BROWN
NODDY'S PUNCTURE Proglothers	CURVED AIR	HAND OF DIMES	LIFESIGNS
NOT FOR PROFIT!	CORBY LAING'S MOUNTAIN	KEN PUSTELNER'S GROUNDHOGS	QUO CONNECTION
	SPACE ELEVATOR	RHABSTALLION	SQUARE WILD
	Spriggan Mist	The Blackheart Orchestra	Predator
	Winter in Eden	McHale's Permanent Brew	Sam Millar
	Haze	Viper Soap Complex	Blues Boy Kings
	Eyes Of Albion	Jamie Porter Band	The Far Meadow
	Last Flight To Pluto	Genius The Fool	Martin Ledger Band

**Rock Extravaganza
Thursday**

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
PEARL HANDED REVOLVER	PAPA SHANGO	SONS OF LIBERTY
AIDEN PRYOR	HAYLEY GRIFFITHS	EMPYRE
HUNTED BY ELEPHANTS	AUSTIN GOLD	THE EMERALD DAWN
Doris Brendel & Lee Dunham	Also Eden	Blackballed
Landmarq	The Paradox Tuin	Ruby Dawn
This House We Built	The Blue Lena	Crowbone
Big River	The Gift	Beguiled
Stom The Band	Broken Lines	Atlas
Trilogy	Thre	Dead Jackals
-- band contest winner --	ROME	Lilith's Army

**Rock Extravaganza
Thursday**

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
LEAF HOUND	HAXAN	Dioux & Roxane
Derecho		

Earlybird £129

Love this? Book your 4-day & day tickets NOW or the festival cannot happen!
 Must sell the equivalent of 400 4-day tickets by 13th March

- * Close to hotels and A1
- * On-site camping for tents, caravans & motorhomes
- * Inclusive day parking
- * On-site shop & restaurant
- * Beside river & steam railway
- * Late night astronomy
- * Real-ale bar!

WWW.NVRF.ROCKS

slated to play two full sets of Emerson Lake & Palmer music on Thursday, August 31st to open the festival! They've been playing the music of ELP since the mid-80's, have been using vintage, signature gear and have done performances WITH Keith Emerson in the past, so these guys have had experiences that we can only dream about. This will be a super-fun trip with lots of excitement and surprises in store. I can't promise that *Manticore* will have a cameo appearance onstage, and I can't even promise that there'll be an honorable mention (although I can honestly say that

if they were coming HERE, we'd be sure to mention them and mark their presence.....jus' sayin'). I've been communicating with NP keyboardist, Tom Szakaly, fairly regularly the last few months. He had a bad fall a short while ago, and damaged his left hand and I've been concerned about him and his situation. He seems to have healed up well enough, but even so, I've mentioned that *Manticore* is 100% behind him and we've offered our assistance if needed, for any reason at all or in any capacity - well, anything short of carrying Tom's Hammond or Monster Moog.....we old guys do have to preserve our backs for future US shows - but he tells me that he's doing well and doesn't need anything, and appreciates the offers.



I also have it on good authority (Keith Turner told me) that Keith Turner, keyboardist from our US Brother Band Tarkus, will also be in attendance, so this will be a convergence of ELP powers that will be both interesting and exciting.

Manticore Q & A

Glenn Gerhard

Q: When are we going to see you perform Love Beach in its entirety with late '70s beach attire and parrots and stuff?

A: I'll tell you, Glenn, I can't say that you're EVER going to see that! Now, as I've said many times previously, I never say "never", but I'm absolutely certain that seeing us in late 70's beach attire is something that possibly only you are interested in. That said, some music from the Love Beach album might be forthcoming. The album wasn't necessarily horrible - just the album name and concept.

Teal Smatlak Liebold

Q: Were there other names for the band before you chose *Manticore*?

A: During the creation process, there were other names I considered - some were very obvious: Tarkus, Karn Evil, Knife Edge.... then, I did a search on other names that were in currently in use, or were used in the past. *Manticore* jumped out at me. I liked the imagery it evoked, the logo that ELP used for their record label was distinctive enough and no one was currently using that name. I did see a "Manticore Project" that was around in Italy a few years earlier, but they were no longer a thing. There was also a little-known death-metal band from 2000 that I didn't think would cause any confusion or conflict. And lastly, the fact that Regina Lake owns the Manticore label, likes us and has approved of us using it certainly helps (thanks, Regina!).

Nicole Walsh - Hogan

Q: Do you play other types of music? Other than Emerson Lake and Palmer?

A: Individually, yes. We all grew up surrounded by classic rock & roll and have all played with other bands, playing other music. However, as a band, we keep our repertoire restricted to music that ELP (that's with Palmer AND Powell) has produced on their studio (and sometimes live) albums. There are other bands that Keith Emerson, Greg Lake and Carl Palmer have played with, but we like to keep the song list confined to those songs that ELP has played at their shows. For instance: America was done by The Nice when Keith was a member, but they've incorporated it into their regular performances. The same can be said of Epitaph or 21st Century Schizoid Man, which were Greg Lake songs that he wrote with King Crimson, and later included in some ELP sets. There is so much music in the ELP collection however, that we're hard-pressed to even keep pace with the "must-have" ELP songs, let alone the "branched out" material.


Thanks, guys! Please keep the questions coming. We'll include more in the Q & A section next month. It's part of our job to keep you informed and entertained and no question is too ridiculous or trivial for us to entertain.....well, the question about which is our favorite lunch meat fit into the "too-ridiculous-to-take-seriously" category.




We've omitted the *How We Got Here...* segment as of last month - due to obvious lack of interest. Fair enough. Starting this month, we've added the Q&A section, where you guys can ask anyone on the team whatever might be on your mind - well, anything except for the "Why aren't you playing near me..." questions. We get


those all the time and here's the answer in a nutshell, before it even gets asked again: The long and short of it is that we, for the most part, play within an eight hour radius of New York City. The exception, of course, is



Prog on the Ranch, which takes place just outside of Tampa FL, and only happened as a result of coercion, manipulation and flattery - all of which, we are admittedly suckers for - and we're not saying that it'll never happen again. However, if you happen to be situated somewhere WITHIN said eight-hour radius of NYC, we'd be happy to look into the possibility of bringing a  show to any theater/cabaret you might suggest, providing it hosts tribute shows and fits into our peculiar parameters (adequate stage size, audience capacity, willingness to agree to the "blue M&M clause" in our contract....) We're sad that we can't play all over the world - or even all over the country. We've found that the next best option is for us to make our calendar available to everyone as early as possible, so ELP lovers (youse guys) can schedule your vacations/road-trips/spousal escapes to coincide with our monthly playing schedule. So we'll answer any and all questions about the material, our gear, ELP's gear, how we accomplish stuff, wardrobe, concept, new songs in progress, etc. You know, like that, and we'll continue to try and make this monthly Enewsletter thing as captivating and insightful as we possibly can. Just [drop us an email](#) and we'll do our best to keep y'all satisfied and in the know.

So that's where we are, where we've been and where we're going. The road is long and challenging but enriching and, even if given the chance, we still wouldn't change a thing - and we're so glad to have all of you on the journey with us. Thanks for being a 'Core Fan and for following . We love and respect each and every one of you guys and we thank you for helping us make sure that the music of Emerson Lake & Palmer survives the ravages of time and space and their legacy continues ad infinitum!

Peace and love!

Rob Shepard and The  Team

www.ManticoreNY.com

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