





July 2023

Hey everyone!!

Summertime, and the weather is....uh, NOT stifling! Not even scorching! Ok, it's kinda cool and nice! Works for us! Man, oh man....is it the beginning of July already?!?! Geez, time really flies. We just did our pre-BlobFest show at The Colonial Theatre in Phoenixville PA and what a great time we had! There was a nice turnout (always pushing for better, of course) of devoted  fans and new discoverers of . World-renowned photographer MaryAnn Burns was up from North Carolina to attend the show and has already posted some beautiful shots from the show (and which we've already taken the liberty of sharing on our FB page - accredited, of course). Gino Wong from [EMEAPP](#) (Electronic

Music Education And Preservation Project) came and introduced us at the beginning of the show - a big deal for us, since EMEAPP is the organization that curates much of Keith Emerson and Greg Lake's gear, among many other things, and we're floored that they've taken such an interest in Manticore's



development and status. We're also honored to be given access to ELP's legendary equipment and we will be sharing with all y'all the planning and progress of a project we're crafting with the EMEAPP group. It's still in the talking & logistics phase, but when we know more, YOU'LL know more! On top of that, we introduced our fabled pirate cannon at the show. Let



me preface this by saying that no roadies or support staff were damaged in the transporting and installation of said cannon....nor was there a test-firing of the thing, which I mention because.....it was a dud. Yeah, big build up,

the cannon crept out from under its covering during Pirates, it moved to center stage looking formidable and impressive, and we got to the end of the show, the end of Pirates, and.....the cannon fired! Now maybe the streamer canister was old or stored someplace with high humidity, or I dunno, whatever.....but instead of firing a shower of colorful streamers into

the air over the awaiting and expectant audience, it blew a wad of fused paper into the lap of one lucky audience member in the third or fourth row. There were no injuries anything.....just a surprised viewer and a general “huh?” from the surrounding populace. I dunno. We’re turning it over to the *Manticore* Forensic Analysis Team (yes, the MFAT) to figure it out and correct the issue. Suffice to say the cannon isn’t dead, it’s merely resting and will once again emerge, next time in all it’s glory and grandeur, at some future performance.



The next show we have on the agenda will delight the New Jerseyans in our ranks.....July 22 will be another return engagement at [Debonair Music Hall](#) in Teaneck NJ! We will have the amazing original prog band Ad Astra opening up for us. Ad Astra consists of Joe Nardulli on guitar, Harold Skeete on bass, Eric Davis on keys and Tony Savasta on drums. Ad Astra has been performing throughout the northeast US for 20 years and is exponentially better than the Brad Pitt movie of the same name that came out in 2019! As a

matter of fact, the movie was lucky that Ad Astra, the band, was around, otherwise even the people that mistakenly thought it was a rockumentary about the group wouldn’t have gone to see it. But I digress..... Ad Astra is just coming off their 20 Year Anniversary Tour with Magic Elf and will be playing old favorites in addition to some new material from their soon-to-be-released new CD. The talent in this band is unparalleled and we’re excited to have them joining us in Jersey!




We'll be omitting the *How We Got Here...* segment this month - due to obvious lack of interest. Fair enough. Starting next month, we'll be adding a 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 *Manticore* 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, 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.



And that's pretty much it for this month. Oh, lastly, I just want to mention that we're still working on getting our shit together with Karn Evil 9 2nd impression. I've got the keyboard parts pretty much where I need them to be, John has already played some segments of the song with me and is in the process of acquiring any additional percussion instruments that he might need to capture all the elements of the original studio recording and Ron is still ironing out the complexities of Greg's bass parts on his new 5-string custom Alembic Scorpion bass (which, btw, looks and sounds incredible). I'm confident that when this piece is finished, our rendition of the entire Karn Evil 9 Suite will be the gleaming gem in the crown of our Brain Salad Surgery 50th Anniversary celebration. If not, it'll be a disastrous train-wreck of monumental proportions, but either way, I can promise that it'll be something to behold!



Thanks for being a 'Core Fan and following  on our journey. 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

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the tribute to Emerson Lake & Palmer