



the tribute to Emerson Lake & Palmer

Manticore

Calendar 2023

April 22	The Linda-WAMC Performance Ctr	Albany, NY
May 25	Daryl's House Club	Pawling, NY
June 24	Colonial Theatre	Phoenixville, PA
July 22	Debonair Music Hall	Teaneck, NJ
Aug 19	The Towne Crier	Beacon, NY
Sept 9	Olympia's Zorba Music Hall	Lowell, MA
Oct	TBA	
Nov 11	The Strand Theatre	Hudson Falls, NY
Dec 16	Bellmore Presents	Bellmore, NY

April 2023

Happy Spring!

We're coming back!

After a fabulous, well-deserved Winter break (and a totally awesome Florida show at Prog on the Ranch in February), *Manticore* is hitting the pavement with a (nearly) full 2023 calendar. [Side note here - when I say "full calendar", for any not yet familiar with *the Manticore way*, I'm referring to the fact that since we only do one show a month (our choice), and not a full-time, nationwide tour, we currently are booked for a show every month in the coming year except for October.]



We kick-off the calendar with our April show at [The Linda - WAMC's Performing Arts Studio in Albany](#), NY. This is a new venue for us and we're excited to be included in The Linda family. It's an intimate venue, formerly a bank, with a state-of-the-art sound and lighting system. An ideal place to be up close and personal with the *Manticore* antics (*M*antics? Hmmm....). I've been told that the green room is formerly the vault, so if show time arrives and the band is nowhere to be found.....

Next point on the agenda is *Manticore*'s May return to [Daryl's House](#) in Pawling, NY. This will be a big deal for us and we're trying to boost it early, I'll tell you why. Aside from the facts that Daryl's House is a prestigious place to play, its owner is a legendary world-famous recording artist and we're humbled and thrilled that they enjoyed our show enough to invite us back, this will be the first time *Manticore* will be doing a professional multi-cam live video recording! So come on down and pack the place, this will be a really fun time.



On a sad note, and yet still calendar-related, we were originally slated to play the Barnum Ballroom in Island Park, NY on July 22nd. Unfortunately the proprietor of the venue, Scott Andreau, a good friend and huge music advocate, has passed due to cancer. Scott was a great guy and we were working with him to try and build the Barnum into more of a music

destination on Long Island in Nassau County, and also make it a local home base for *Manticore*. Regrettably, that will no longer be possible and our sincerest condolences go out to his family and friends.



Moving on to music-related news, this year is the 50th anniversary of the Brain Salad Surgery album. We're exploring different ways to highlight it and celebrate in ways that will delight and amaze you. In addition to having as much from BSS as we can possibly include on our setlist (still missing Toccata, Still...You Turn Me On and KE9 2nd impression, but we're actually making some progress on their inclusion before the end of the year), we've been in talks with the [EMEAPP \(Electronic Music Education And Preservation Project\)](#) people about the possibility of putting together an intrepid video collaboration using Keith and Greg's vintage gear that will surely rock your socks off. Nothing is definite, but as 'Core Members, we want to include you in the process and give all y'all some insider information that you can't get anywhere else. More as this develops.....

Another note about the upcoming *Manticore* show at The Linda; Ron will be debuting using his brand new, custom Alembic Scorpion 5-string bass! We're very excited and, as of this enewsletter, it's on its way up from South Carolina, where Ron's sequestered himself this past weekend, exploring its tonal nuances and intricacies to even more accurately deliver that signature Greg Lake sound that we all know and love. Here for your

reading enjoyment is the conclusion to the saga of Ron's custom Alembic bass acquisition that he calls:

"The Scorpion Cometh"

I was very happy to share my story of the Alembic Scorpion 5-string bass I was having built in our November 2022 'Core Fans Enewsletter. Throughout the build process, I had been in constant contact with Alembic dealer and bassist extraordinaire, the great Trevor Lindsey. I'm now even happier to have you complete the journey with me.

So in February, I was told that the finishing touches were being applied and we were now down to a matter of days until full completion. Alembic takes great care and pride in the finishing process, creating a near perfect instrument down to the most minute detail. Soon after that, I received notification that my Scorpion Bass was finally completed and it was time to make arrangements for shipping.



Before my beautiful new bass was to be shipped however, I was afforded the opportunity to go out to the Alembic factory and work with Head Luthier James Fisher, in order to get my instrument personalized and perfectly set up to my requirements. So off I went to Rohnert Park California, which is just about 50 miles or so due north of San Francisco. While there, I had a marvelous day visiting with all the wonderful people at Alembic, getting a private tour of the workshop and a chance to play my new bass there. It's stunning in every way and detail, and just a dream to play. I did pinch myself a

few times, just to make sure I was really there.

Everyone was incredibly nice and accommodating to me, especially James Fisher, Mary Nelson (Office Manager and materials procurer) and Bob Nelson (shop foreman and production coordinator). I also got to do a couple of cool things while I was there. As I walked in the front entranceway, there was a glass showcase with some special instruments hanging in it. One of the instruments was an electric guitar built



for Greg Lake (I believe you can see him using it circa 74-78). I was blown away when Mary had James pull it out of the showcase and allowed me to play it....so I proceeded to play the lead guitar break from Karn Evil 9. What else would I play on Greg's Axe?

Now Alembic is famous for their exquisite electric basses and guitars, but they've never delved into acoustic instruments. Well, I had the honor and privilege of playing what I was told was the very first Alembic acoustic guitar. Bob Nelson, such an awesome guitar & bass craftsman, who showed me so many of the amazing builds in process, put it in my hands and said, "play something." So of course I proceeded to play Lucky Man.



After spending a couple of fun and memorable hours at Alembic, I was on my way back to my hotel to catch some ZZZZs before my flight back to JFK early the next day. Just about one week after I got home, the shipment arrived. So just shy of a year after I placed my order with the great folks at Alembic, to my utter joy and delight, the big day was finally here. *The Scorpion cometh!*



It will be making it's debut at our April 22nd show at The Linda - WAMC Performing Arts Studio in Albany. Hope to see you there!

Peace,
Ron



There's word circulating about a cannon.....

If you haven't already, make sure to catch our recently posted **Manticore** videos. We've put up several live videos from the Prog on the Ranch festival weekend featuring [Rachel Flowers](#) and [Paul Bielatowicz](#) joining us onstage. And please remember to like, comment



and subscribe when you go to YouTube - your feedback keeps us going! We do our best to keep you energized and entertained and we try to hold

you over for those rare times when you can't manage to attend our live performances. Also keep your eyes peeled for Keeb Ordist - our "spokesmillennial" who likes to make an appearance now and again on



our Facebook page. He's a new underpaid (unpaid...) addition to the Manticore Team and he manages to pop up occasionally when we're able to ply him with a cappuccino or soy milk latte and a vegan donut.

That's about it for now. We're doing our best to bring you the best that ELP has to offer, all around the Northeast USA. If you have any ideas for us regarding suitable venues to bring Manticore to in your area or if you have questions about any aspect of Manticore in general, drop us a line and I promise we'll get back to you promptly. Meanwhile, have a safe and healthy April and we look forward to seeing you at an upcoming show!

Peace and love!

Rob Shepard and The Manticore Team

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