



September 2023

Hello all!

Wow! Just wow! You know, doing the enewsletter monthly, while it's been a labor of love (as is playing in the ELP tribute show), it's also a daunting task. This edition in particular, because I'm pretty sure....as a matter of fact, I'm CERTAIN that I'm going to have to do a supplemental edition, just to recapture the UK adventure we just completed. And I've found that my deep procrastination roots are creeping in, so I have learned that the way to battle procrastination is to dive in at the deep end before I have a chance to question my readiness (or sanity). Here I go.....

Ok, self-therapy session over, now let's get to the matter at hand....

Manticore - the tribute to Emerson Lake & Palmer!!!

August was Ausome! Our show at [The Towne Crier Cafe](#) in Beacon NY was, if I do say so myself, stellar! And the turnout was our best ever at that particular venue. We've played the Towne Crier three times previously - four in total now. Initially, we performed there in 2018, at the insistence of my wife's (recently passed) cousin, [Connie Hogarth](#). Connie was, among endless other things, a strong advocate for talent and art and lived next-door to her dear friend, music legend and Beacon resident, Pete Seeger. Daryl and I visited with Connie, who was 90 at the time, and while we were there, I told her about *Manticore*. She said she was close with the owner of [The Towne Crier Cafe](#) in town and she would look into getting us booked at the venue. Not being familiar with the place (and letting my arrogant-ass colors shine through), I said, "Thanks, but we're going to be doing mostly theaters and larger venues..." to which she said "I think you might want to see it before you hastily dismiss it." We took a ride over, walked in the front door and I was totally unimpressed. It looked like a pub, with bar stretching the length of the right wall, tables and booths throughout, and a small, slightly elevated stage corner. Not the sort of place I was looking to get

Manticore into even though we were still in the first year of our existence. Connie just smiled. We followed her to the back of the bar, down a small hallway that I noticed was bedecked with photos of musical legends.....could these people have



played here?...she introduced me to Phil Ciganer, her friend and owner of the TCC. I smiled and shook Phil's hand and he brought us through a back doorway, where my jaw hit the floor. Stretching out in front of me was a beautiful performance center, with a nearly two hundred diner capacity and a three-foot high, 24'x16' stage, already equipped with a Hammond B-3 and a Steinway concert grand piano. After humbly relocating my jaw in its proper place (mouth closed is the best position for me), Phil offered us Sunday November 18, 2018 which I took in a



heartbeat. It happened to be Connie's birthday weekend, so we made a party out of it. We had a respectable turnout - many of the attendees were local friends of Connie's, but among them were Pete Seeger's daughter, Tinya Seeger and several other music luminaries whose names unfortunately escape me. It was a fun time and

since then, despite a pandemic thrown into the mix, we've been consistently invited back and this past performance was no exception.

Manticore will be back at [The Towne Crier Cafe](#) on Saturday, August 17, 2024 and if you want to enjoy an intimate show with outstanding sound and wonderful food, this is the place to come to. Sadly, Connie is no longer with us, she left us in February at the accomplished age of 95, but I keep her close to my heart when we play there and next time will be no exception.

Onward to September (and the reason this Enewsletter is late in coming to you: *Manticore* started September off with a trip to Peterborough, England for Labor Day Weekend, to support our brothers in ELP, Noddy's Puncture, at the Nene Valley Rock Festival. I won't say too much about

the trip at the moment, since I'm planning a September Supplemental Enewsletter to tell the tale and show photos from our adventure, but suffice it to say that we had an extraordinary time bonding with fellow musicians, meeting international ELP/*Manticore* fans and touring around. Assuming you're already a subscriber to our 'Core Fans Monthly Enewsletter, you should be able to read about the Overseas Exploits of *Manticore* by the end of the month.

Meanwhile, our September *Manticore* show has rapidly descended upon us! As I write this, just three days after returning from England, I'm preparing to go into The Lair (my living room, for the

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 & Heron stages
 These alternate so you can see every band

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
PROG Extravaganza NODDY'S PUNCTURE ELP tribute, and set Skiptones NODDY'S PUNCTURE ELP tribute, set by Progfather's	TEN YEARS AFTER CURVED AIR CORY LAMB'S MOUNTAIN SPACE ELEVATOR Spriggan Mist Winter In Eden Haze Eyes Of Albion Last Flight To Pluto	COLOSSEUM HAND OF DIMES KEN PUSTELNIK'S GROUNDHOGS RHABSTALLION The Blackheart Orchestra McHale's Permanent Brew Viper Soup Complex Jamie Porter Band Genius The Fool
ROCK Extravaganza LEAF HOUND HAXAN Daxx & Roxane Derecho	PEARL HANDLED REVOLVER AIDEN PRYOR HUNTED BY ELEPHANTS Doris Brendel & Lee Dunham Landmarq This House We Built Big River Stan The Band Trilogy -- band contest winner --	CRAZY WORLD of ARTHUR BROWN LIFESIGNS QUO CONNECTION SQUARE WILD Predator Sam Millar Blues Boy Kings The Far Meadow Martin Ledger Band

Kingfisher stage
 Providing a contrast in our other marquee

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
EARLYBIRD £129	PAPA SHANGO HAYLEY GRIFFITHS AUSTIN GOLD Also Eden The Paradox Twin The Blue Lena The Gift Broken Lines Thr3e ROME	SONS OF LIBERTY EMPYRE THE EMERALD DAWN Blackballed Ruby Dawn Croubone Beguiled Atlas Dead Jackals Lilith's Army

NOT FOR PROFIT!

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



uninitiated) to pack up all my gear and load it into The Beast to excursion up to [Olympia's Zorba Music Hall](#) in Lowell, Massachusetts.

This will be *Manticore*'s first show ever in the Boston area. After working on it for about 4 years, we've finally been able to break through Fenway's Green Monster and bring the British back to Massachusetts (yes, it's a

stretch, since WE'RE not British, but our honorees are/were). We're hoping that this will be the first of many performances in this area. Time will tell.

[Olympia's Zorba Music Hall](#) is a music venue/Greek restaurant located in the northeast quadrant of Massachusetts - not too far from Salem - up near the New Hampshire border. We're being presented by area promoter Carmen Iuvara, a longtime ELP fan and believer in the drawing power of Emerson Lake & Palmer. We're expecting a huge turnout due to the number of requests *Manticore* has had over the last six years to bring the music of ELP to the Commonwealth.

After our September show, *Manticore* is taking a month off. We'll be using the rest of September and the month of October to work on new material and to connect with our [EMEAPP](#) (Electronic Music Education And Preservation Project) peeps, to see if we can get an exciting new project going with them to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of Brain Salad



Surgery, coming up on December 7 (two days after my birthday, for anyone keeping track....my wishlist is up on Amazon). Another video using Keith Emerson's and Greg Lake's gear should be in the works, but I anticipate this will be a truly massive and inclusive undertaking. As the details are worked out, you will definitely be kept in the loop. Insider info is one of the audacious perks that we try to make available to our 'Core Fans! 😊

Manticore Q & A

David Nichols

Q: You are incredibly talented. When can I hear you playing some country music?

A: Well Dave, we actually DO play country music.....it's just from a different country!

Michael Trangucci

Q: What bands were ur original influences as kids?

A: **Rob:** When I was really young - like first taking piano lessons - I only liked classical music. By High School, I was listening to rock - Billy Joel, the Good Rats, Led Zeppelin, The Beatles, The Who, etc. Then, as I started learning about "symphonic rock" and "art rock", the predecessors of prog, I started listening to ELP, Yes, Jethro Tull, Rush, Dixie Dregs and several years later made the leap to fusion - Herbie Hancock, Chick Corea and Return to Forever, Weather Report, UZEB.

Ron: Beatles, Cream, Jimi Hendrix...

John: If I tell you, everyone will know my age. Lol. I'd have to say as a kid it was, of course, the Beatles, Dave Clark 5 and mostly early British bands.

Mikaela Leib

Q: How long have all of you been playing music?

A: **Rob:** The long answer, my dad was a music teacher. He had me taking lessons from the age of 4. I had teachers going all the way into my college days, then figured I know everything I needed to know. Boy, was I mistaken! But even after I finished "taking lessons", I kept on playing with bands, practicing and learning stuff, so I've played pretty much most of

my life. Short answer: 60 years. But being that you're my daughter, you probably know that already..... 😬

Ron: Been playing since I was 10, so.....55 years

John: I started playing at 8. And that was a long time ago.

Gergő Szabó

Q: Are you ready to make your own music one day? You are so talented that an original composition in the style of ELP would even add to the tribute value of your mission.

A: Thank you, Gergő. I can speak for the group, to say that we're fully invested in just paying tribute to the most incredible musical group that we feel ever existed. For anyone that doesn't know you, Gergő had played with an ELP tribute in Hungary called ELPirates (now currently the strength behind original prog band [M.A.Y.A. - Music As You Are](#)), and you were one of the influencing factors for me to start *Manticore*, back in the day. Speaking for myself, I appreciate your question, but I don't think our audience that comes to hear us perform the music of ELP would appreciate us inserting or insinuating our own compositions in with those of The Maestros. I have done some writing in the past (shameless plug - I believe Progzilla Radio is listening to some of my original stuff now - maybe they'll like it enough to use?) and may do some more in the future, but not in the style of ELP and definitely not for a *Manticore* audience.

Lorraine Sunshine-Pierre

Q: How's the cannon coming along?

A: I'll tell ya, I believe the cannon will be an on-going effort on our part. The fact that we're not allowed to fire a REAL cannon at our performances is an issue - and one that ELP rarely had a problem with. In addition, I guess we really don't feel the need to haul a REAL, 1200 lb pirate cannon with us to shows - being a bunch of wimpy old guys who can't afford a road crew. So we're put in the unenviable position of bringing a real-LOOKING cannon with us and trying to make it appear and sound like it's firing without raising any trepidation or insurance premiums. It's a balancing act, but I predict we'll just continue to toil away at it until we get

it right. Let's just keep our fingers crossed that you're at the show when everything goes right! 🙌 🙌

Thanks, everyone!

As I said at the close of last month's Enewsletter, if you happen to be situated somewhere WITHIN an eight-hour or so radius of NYC and have a theater/cabaret you think you'd like to see us at, we'd be happy to look into the possibility of bringing a **Manticore** show there, 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.

Well, that about wraps it up for this edition of the 'Core Fans Monthly Enewsletter. Time for me to go start packing up the arsenal and get ready to hit the road first thing tomorrow morning. Funny thing about procrastination.....!



the tribute to Emerson Lake & Palmer


Manticore

Calendar 2023/24

Oct	OFF	
Nov 10	The Strand Theatre	Hudson Falls, NY
Dec 16	Bellmore Presents	Bellmore, NY
Jan 2024	OFF	
Feb 2024	OFF	
Mar 16, 2024	Prog on the Ranch	Tampa, FL
April 21, 2024	Daryl's House	Pawling, NY
May 25, 2024	The Linda	Albany, NY
June 15, 2024	The Colonial Theatre	Phoenixville, PA
July 2024	TBA	
Aug 17, 2024	Towne Crier Cafe	Beacon, NY
Sept 21, 2024	Sellersville Theater	Sellersville, PA

might've procrastinated writing this month's Enewsletter until today, but I found that by just continually writing all day, I was able to procrastinate breaking down all my equipment and packing it up!!

Keep an eye out for our September Supplement which should be out by the end of the month, telling the tale of the intrepid travelers and their journey across The Pond to run around and act like kids a third their age.

And lastly, thanks for being a 'Core Fan and for following  Manticore. 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 that their legacy continues ad infinitum!

Peace and love!

Rob Shepard and The  Manticore Team

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