



December 2022

Hello, everyone!

We've made it through the beginning of the 2022 holiday season... hopefully you've all stayed happy and healthy and the Christmas music (that started pre-Halloween this year) hasn't gotten to you yet - you still have at least another 3 weeks to endure. But great things are still yet to come before the year ends - let's review a little first.

November was special. *Manticore* and Carl Palmer both played, not only on the same continent, but in the same state!! Ok, at different times and in different places, but it was really one step closer to worlds colliding....yes, that's our dream - of Carl showing up at a *Manticore* performance, sitting in with the band and acknowledging that, as a rising tide floats all boats, his presence is as beneficial to him as it is for us. That the same folks that love the original sound of ELP from the old days also love the music by an original member recreated in a unique, innovative fashion, with different instrumentation. That it's not a question of "either/or" but a pursuit of more and more.....yet I digress..... *Manticore* had a wonderful show last month at the glorious, historic Strand Theatre in beautiful Hudson Falls, NY and Carl Palmer's Legacy band did a magnificent job at the Patchogue Theater in Patchogue and the Sony Hall in NYC (we know - we were at the Patchogue Theater cheering him on). Carl did his new incarnation with matched, high-def video screens mounted on either side of the stage. His Return of ELP Tour was set up so that he could perform with his now-deceased bandmates, Keith Emerson and Greg Lake. Using original



footage from ELP's Royal Albert Hall performance in 1992, Carl isolated Keith and Greg's tracks and camera views and performs several songs with them, thanks to the audio and video expertise of his incredible sound tech, Steve Supparits. This tour has been so successful that Carl has declared that he's now going to expand it nation- and possibly world-wide. The reason I make a big deal about this is essentially this: It's Mr. Palmer's recognition that the draw of the original sound of Emerson Lake &

Palmer is undeniable. That realization justifies our presence as the preeminent ELP tribute show and demonstrates that, as more of Carl's and ELP's fans learn of *Manticores*' existence, more will come to both Carl Palmer's Legacy shows *AND* to *Manticores* shows, to get that full ELP experience! So spread the word, spread the joy and share the legacy!

Additional note from November, - Nigel and Tracy Hewitson jumped the pond from the UK to come and see Carl's show with us at the Patchogue Theater. They were our guests for the week and, besides being exposed to their first US Thanksgiving (complete with full Norman Rockwell family-dinner-experience and the traditional playing of Alice's Restaurant), were treated to their very own private *Manticores* show right here in The Lair! Icing on the cake....or whipped cream on the pumpkin pie, as it were.... But I'm proud to say that *Manticores* is a full-service organization - we take care of our peeps! Cheers!





On to December. Our December show will be on our home turf, at the luxurious Barnum Ballroom in Island Park, NY - right here on Long Island! It's extra-special for me, since it's virtually right around the corner from the *Manticores*' Lair. Nothing like rolling out of bed and getting to the venue



before your feet even hit the floor!!! Ok, not THAT close, but 15 minutes from home is a shade more convenient than an 8 hour drive. And while we do love to travel to other states and different parts of New York, but there is definitely something to be said for doing a show locally for our friends, family and any neighborhood ELP fans. And Barnum Ballroom is certainly a destination worthy of OUR attention. It's a little off the beaten path, on a fairly isolated stretch of Austin Blvd that's in-between the towns of Oceanside and Long Beach (across the street from approximately where Speaks used to be, for you older rockers out there...), but it's a beautiful up-and-coming venue - one of very few in Nassau County - with a nice size stage, a great sound system, and a proprietor that's all about the music. We're pulling out all the stops for this show. Ads will start running on WBAB 102.3 FM starting next Thursday and they're doing a ticket giveaway contest on their website which you can access here:

<https://www.wbab.com/contests/win-tickets-see-manticore-tribute-emerson-lake-palmer/GTONTGR7UBG7JGZVNNYVMCXDPY/>

If you happen to win a pair on WBAB and you're a 'Core Fan (yes, if you're getting this newsletter, that's you!), we'll throw in a *free*  *Manticore Tee-shirt* after the show! For the holiday season this year, at this particular show, we've put together a really nice version of *I Believe In Father Christmas* to finish off the nite and send everyone home with a holiday feel.

By the way, if you can make it to Barnum Ballroom this go around, you can take a crack at our new  *Manticore Swag*. Tee shirts are available in sizes from med to 3XL and we have introduced new knit beanies with the

Manticore logo embroidered on them, that will help keep you progaliciously(?) warm this winter, should you happen to be at some random outdoor arena in Canada seeing a prog concert in the cold and snow....jus' sayin'....



After the Barnum Ballroom show (this coming Saturday), *Manticore* will be laying low through the end of the year, until the [Prog on the Ranch 2023](#) in the beginning of February (which, if you don't have any plans yet, will be a spectacular weekend full of prog-out-the-ears, BBQ, friends, family and fun). Day passes and full weekend tickets are still available at the [Crimson Sky Ranch](#) website. Meanwhile, we'll be spending our hiatus



working on new ELP material. I'm in the middle of learning Karn Evil 9 *2nd impression*, in the hopes of being able to present the full Karn Evil 9 Suite to you guys in the Fall for our celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Brain

Salad Surgery album. We're also in the process (well I am, but I haven't really clued the guys in yet...) of getting at least *some* of Pictures At An Exhibition up and running. The hardest thing about incorporating "new" ELP material into the repertoire is really finding places for it in the set!


Many of the pieces are long and so many of the “must haves” are in the show that it’s difficult to decide what to cut temporarily in order to introduce the new stuff. But that’s just the challenge that I deal with on a regular basis - presenting you with the best possible representation of an ELP experience, so that you’ll come to more shows and leave satisfied each and every time AND so that you’ll tell your friends about that experience and help us build this thing up to the grand spectacle that is worthy of its connection with Emerson Lake & Palmer!

As I mentioned last month, the *Manticore* 2023 calendar is rapidly filling up. We have our dates all set, up to next July, with some new, untested venues being added. We’ve had requests to bring *Manticore* to other parts of the nation and even other countries! Lately, I’ve been fielding requests from places like Texas, South Carolina, Ohio, California, New Hampshire, UK, Brazil and Australia. Sadly, with the limited resources and time available to us (2/3 of the band have businesses to run), we are unable to satisfy many of those requests. We do our best to bring the music of ELP to as many places as we can that are within an 8 hour driving distance from NYC. If you know of any theaters or cabaret-type places that host tribute shows (and they’re in an area that generally has decent turnout for prog shows), feel free to DM us



with the name and contact info for the venue and we’ll cheerfully explore it. If you happen to have a connection to the venue, even better! I’m currently exploring some venues further west - in the area of Cleveland, Akron, Pittsburgh and like that - but I haven’t gotten responses yet. Also,

possibilities in the Boston area. It's an ongoing struggle, but I'll keep all y'all in the loop - it's part of the 'Core Fan experience that you've signed on for (no extra charge!).

So that just about wraps up our December enewsletter. Hope you found it entertaining and enlightening. Comments, criticisms and suggestions are always welcome (please keep it friendly, y'all...). Thanks again for caring and hanging with us!  Manticore wishes all of you a safe, warm and loving holiday season.

Love and peace,

Rob Shepard and The  Manticore Team

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