

Greg Lake - Songs Of A Lifetime (2013)

Written by bluesever

Friday, 09 December 2016 16:18 - Last Updated Monday, 09 April 2018 08:55

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1. *21st Century Schizoid Man* (1:00) 2. *Lend Your Love To Me Tonight* (3:39) 3. *Songs Of A Lifetime Tour Introduction* (1:03) 4. *From The Beginning* (5:03) 5. *Tribute To The King* (7:03) 6. *Heartbreak Hotel* (2:25) 7. *Epitaph / The Court Of The Crimson King* (5:05) 8. *King Crimson Cover Story* (4:46) 9. *I Talk To The Wind* (4:29) 10. *Ringo And The Beatles* (4:15) 11. *You've Got To Hide Your Love Away* (2:51) 12. *Touch And Go* (3:06) 13. *Trilogy* (2:56) 14. *Still You Turn Me On* (3:34) 15. *Reflections Of Paris* (1:21) 16. *C'est La Vie* (3:58) 17. *My Very First Guitar* (4:05) 18. *Lucky Man* (4:45) 19. *People Get Ready* (3:25) 20. *Karn Evil 9 First Impression (Part Two)* (5:41) Greg Lake - vocals, bass, guitars + Rob LaVaque – arranger, backing vocals April Laragy Stein – accordion (11), backing vocals André Cholmondeley, John Michael Engard – guitar, vocals (20) Cassidie Smith, John Akers, John Michael Engard, Katie Andrianos, Mary Ellen Hayden, Terry Hand-Smith - backing vocals

It's those classic songs and the stories behind them that make Greg Lake's *Songs Of A Lifetime* so special. While the former Emerson, Lake & Palmer, King Crimson and one-time Asia vocalist and bassist penned his autobiography *Lucky Man*, "songs would crop up that were in some way crucial or extremely important in the development of my career," giving Lake the idea to go out and perform these tunes - both his own and ones that influenced him.

Blasting storm effects, jabbing keys and a drum machine back Lake's powerful vocal on a snippet of the King Crimson classic, "21st Century Schizoid Man," that opens the 20-track disc. He moves onto a much less complicated "Lend Your Love To Me Tonight," a personal highlight for me when I caught this tour in New York and one of the better songs on this CD.

Lake's stories are as every bit as important as the songs he performed at these concerts. He recalls seeing Elvis in Lake Tahoe in the early 70s before going into a rendition of what he calls "the greatest rock and roll song ever written," a rather solid stab at "Heartbreak Hotel." Then

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we're into the court of King Crimson with "Epitaph," followed by a delicious story about the players in King Crimson and the famous cover of their debut album. On "I Talk To The Wind," another classic Crimson tune, Lake's vocals are very strong, even though at times the backing keys bleed through, adding a slight karaoke feel.

Bright quick audience participation lifts the equally bright and quick Beatles song, "You Got To Hide Your Love Away," after Lake's story about touring with Ringo Starr. A major highlight is when Lake's vocal and acoustic guitar brush over "Trilogy," which is practically worth the price of this CD alone. "Still You Turn Me On" sounded big and another story about how "C'est la Vie" was a hit for Johnny Hallyday (aka the French Elvis) in France certainly explains the global appeal of ELP.

The night wouldn't be complete without the ubiquitous "Lucky Man." Lake's powerful voice and simple playing on the keys work well on a very sweet "People Get Ready." The encore of ELP's "Karn Evil 9, First Impression, Part 2" gets the crowd really crazy with full complement of backing tracks. We do get a good mix of Lake's bass up nice and high and his voice sounds as good at the end of the show as it did at the beginning. Overall, Songs Of A Lifetime does a stellar job of bringing a show from Greg Lake's recent tour to life. We can only hope more will follow. --- Ralph Greco, Jr., vintagerock.com

Greg Lake of progressive rock icons Emerson, Lake and Palmer has died aged 69. Lake passed away yesterday after a 'long and stubborn battle with cancer', announced his manager Stewart Young. His death comes just nine months after the death of his bandmate, Keith Emerson

Emerson died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound at his home in Santa Monica, California, in March. manager Stewart Young on Lake's website: 'Yesterday, December 7, I lost my best friend to a long and stubborn battle with cancer. 'Greg Lake will stay in my heart forever, as he has always been. His family would be grateful for privacy during this time of their grief.'

Lake, who was born in Poole, Dorset, in November 1947, first achieved acclaim as the lead singer and bass guitar player of King Crimson, who he formed with Robert Fripp in 1967. King

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Crimson were seminal in the prog-rock genre, with 1969's *In The Court Of The Crimson King* deemed their most successful and influential album. A statement from King Crimson's record label, DGM Live, said they sent their 'condolences and respects to Greg's family'.

After meeting Emerson during a tour of the US and Carl Palmer while back in England, the trio went on to form ELP and became known for ambitious theatrical shows and tracks that combined varied musical influences, including rock and classical. Their 1971 debut album, *Emerson Lake and Palmer*, went platinum and the group went onto sell 48 million records during their career. The group disbanded in the late 1970s but Lake continued to tour as a solo artist.

According to his website, he last performed in 2013 during his *Songs Of A Lifetime Tour*. ---Alex Matthews, dailymail.co.uk

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