



INTERVIEWS: Mike King/Reel Recordings, Upsilon Acrux, Cold Fairyland



FEATURES: Henry Cow 40th Anniv Box, Rick Wakeman, Demetrio Stratos



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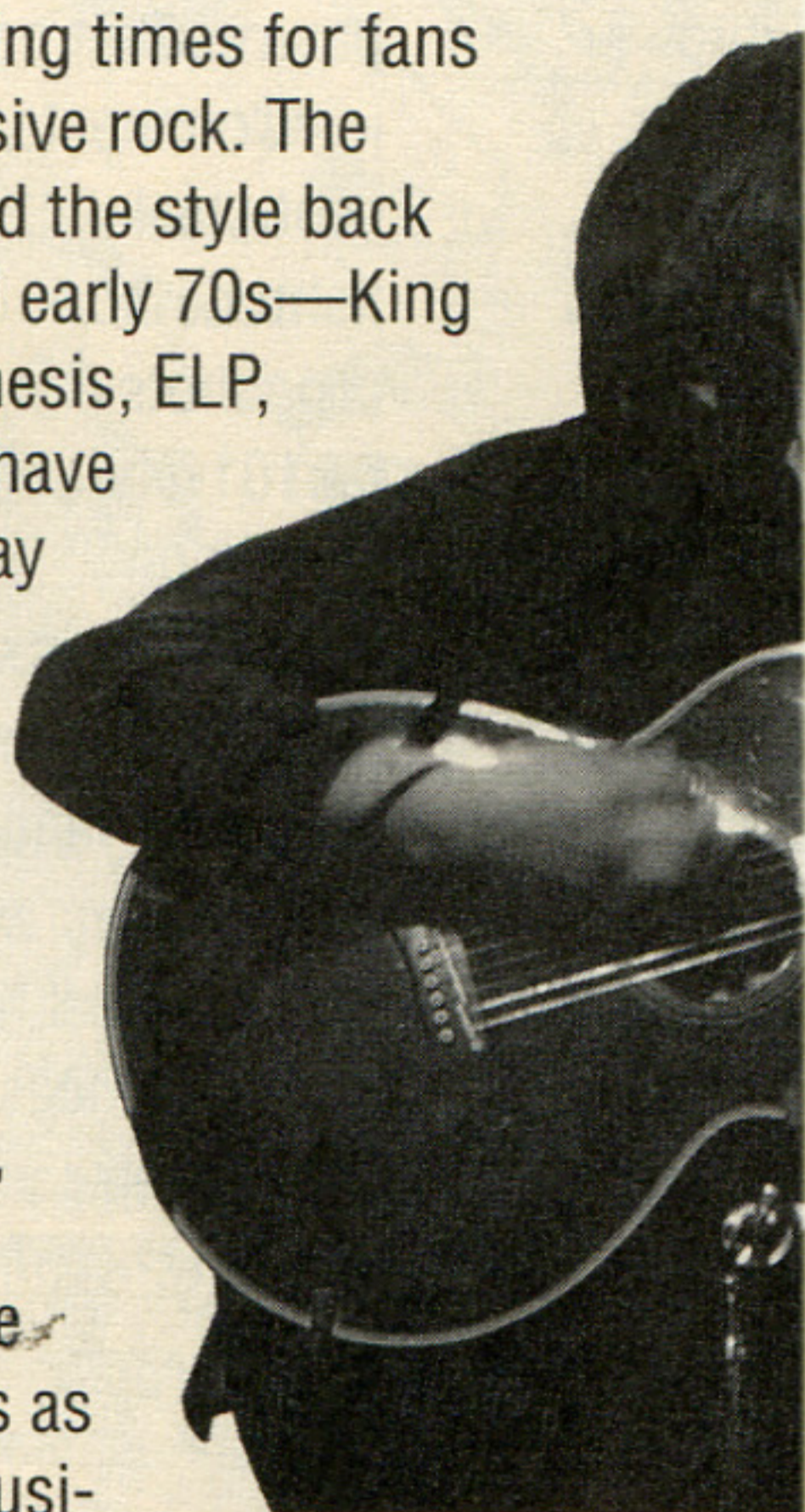
EXPLORING THE BOUNDARIES OF ROCK

\$7.00

THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

British Progressive Rock Points To The Future

These are interesting times for fans of British progressive rock. The bands that founded the style back in the late 60s and early 70s—King Crimson, Yes, Genesis, ELP, Pink Floyd, etc.—have either called it a day or are in their sunset years. Those who are still trying to continue, such as Yes' Chris Squire, are all in their 60s, and the natural effects of aging are bringing their days as actively touring musicians to a close. That's not to say that fans of progressive rock won't s



Copernicus – “Disappearance”

(*Nevermore Inc, NCD 2091 2009, CD*)

If Van Halen's David Lee Roth decided to drop it all and become an obtuse beat poet, that may create a small avenue of interest into the ramblings of Copernicus. There is no doubt plenty of work was done behind the scenes with a who's who of long time friends and session musicians creating a unique framework for the subatomic physics level musings of the artists. “The Quark Gluon Plasma” provides some excellent Spanish guitar meshed with some quivery synthesizer which a trained ear can focus on whether you can stand the recitation or not. Coming at this project from that point of view it's a bit easier to strike some common ground for the musicians. “The Blind Zombies” is perhaps the most melodic delivery of the seven tracks with the semi-classical arrangement that works well with Larry Kirwan's Bill Frisell like segues. Musical director Pierce Turner demonstrates a keen ear for the unique arrangement also heard on “Atomic New Orleans” and the extended album closer, “Revolution II.” The former piece is a nice slice of basic R&B rock still accented by jittery synth washes while the latter track begins with a convincing strong free jazz drum cadenza. Reading through the singer's writings, there is obviously some cosmic point he's trying to substantiate. However challenging the album may be, it is clear there are going to be discerning listeners who will find solace in these pieces of uncomfortable but controlled chaos.

– Jeff Melton

enjoy these musicians' work for many years to come, but the writing is on the wall and it won't be long before all of these groups are talked about in the past tense.

What will the world of British progressive rock look like without their founding fathers?

Certainly many of the second wave groups of

the 80s are still active, including IQ, Marillion, and Pendragon, though most of these groups are comfortably settled into middle age and show little intention of blazing any trails of innovation.

That task has been handed down to a newer generation of British bands that their origins to the post-grunge era. Most

NEWS & RUMORS



■ The 2010 Rock In O Maison de la Musiq a most impressive I Steve Hillage and M Also on the bill is T Chris Cutler leading Kihlstedt, and Jewli there and is an insp

bands at the festival include **Jannick Top** and **Thierry Zaboitzeff, Caspar Brotzmann Mass** others. More information at <http://www.rock>

■ Progday 2010 (September 4th, 5th, 2010, at America's longest running annual progressive two Canadian bands **Mahogany Frog** and **Ha** nounced. Keep an eye on the website for fur

■ CalProg, the west coast's last remaining announced **Ambrosia, District 97** and **miRth** Center on October 2, 2010. Hey guys, you've been around 7 years. Isn't it about time you expand the festival to two days to make it worth the effort for folks outside the LA area to attend? More info at <http://www.calprog.com>

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