



HEEPSTERS  
MAILING LIST

# URIAH HEEP

## Carolina Heepsters Association



HEEPSTERS  
ON THE WEB

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"THE SHADOWS & THE WIND"

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## AND THE TITLE IS?

*Contributed by: Dave White/ [www.uriah-heep.com](http://www.uriah-heep.com)*

The Heepster's Heepster. Mr. Mick Box..always there, always ready to do whatever he can to "spread the word" and "keep that Heep flag flying". From the earliest days of Heep on the net, Mick has been most willing to share whatever he can with the fans through both the website and by individual e-mail. He has told me more than once "tonight I WILL get my e-mails answered!"....or I have many e-mails to catch up so I better get to it. It was Mick who called me twice the day back in 1999 when the North American Tour was cancelling in order that I could let the fans know as soon as possible if the tour WAS cancelled. After my second call from Mick, we kind of assumed it was in fact not going to be, and then I called him at 10 at night...never one to hold back anything whether good or bad, he told me like it was, "sorry mate...I have been going over this and over this, and it's just not going to happen"..... whether bad news or good Mick has never once refused to answer any questions posed to him from me, or anyone else for that matter.



**Uriah Heep currently writing new material**

Last week, at the request of the **CHA** team, I did ask Mick if they could get a behind the scenes exclusive on the makings and the progress of the new album on the works. Here is his reply. It's amazing how simple of a process he makes it sound! If you've ever tried to work with others composing, rehearsing, and producing music you know can tell from his answers here that there must be much more behind the scenes that we can only imagine. The countless hours of writing, reviewing, changing and finally the scheduling for the introductions of the music to the band, the rehearsals, which we all know will invite additional thoughts and ideas from the other members, will result in yet another album full of that very unique blend of rock and roll from Uriah Heep! At this point we can only imagine...but Mick does his best to tell it like it is:

**"Phil and I are writing songs at the moment over at Phil's flat. It is in the early stages but the signs are good. Most of the ideas are just musical at the moment and we have not entered into writing lyrics. When we do Phil will come to my house and we will start the lyric process. I believe Trevor has been writing in his studio in Hull and he is happy with the results so far. It is too early to have any CD titles as we usually do this as we go along and once the lyric writing starts things usually take on another form and we go from there. We are very open minded and all ideas are worked upon and after a time a shape starts to form. The signs are encouraging so we will just keep the creative juices flowing.**

**We have planned the year to play various weekend type shows so that we can concentrate on song writing. When we feel we have enough material the band will go into rehearsals and work up all of the songs. Once this process is complete we will look at going into the studio.**

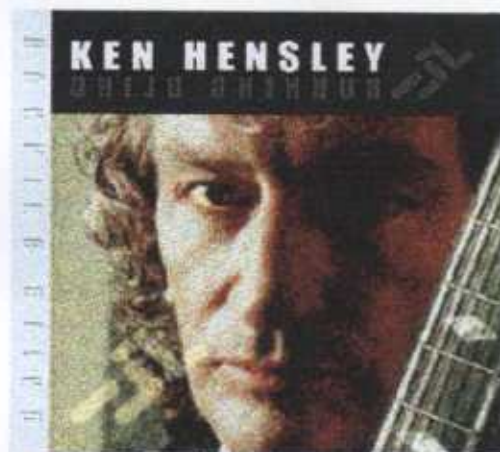
**We have started talks with Pip Williams re the production and after all his fantastic work on the live albums and the re-masters he has the best knowledge of all things Heep musically past and present so is best suited for the job. We will not do what we usually do and disappear for 3 months into the rehearsal and recording studio. We will probably spend a couple of weeks putting the backing tracks down and then overdub the other parts between live work. I think that this will keep everything fresh too and keep us all very busy."**



# KEN HENSLEY / FREE SPIRIT UPDATES

Contributed by Rodrigo Werneck / [www.ken-hensley.com](http://www.ken-hensley.com)

After the first leg of the tour which comprised Finland and Scandinavia, it was time for the UK and then Russia. Reports and photos from most of the gigs can be found at the official website at [www.ken-hensley.com](http://www.ken-hensley.com), as well as Hensley's own tour diary, with different names related to the places he've been ("Viking Chronicles", "Anglo-Saxon Chronicles", "Cossack Chronicles", etc.). Next step: the rest of Europe: Germany, Italy, Hungary, Austria, Czech Republic, France, Liechtenstein, Holland and Belgium. Then, some festivals during Summer, and for the second half of the year, rumors say the Americas will be next!



Current #1 Selling Album In Russia

Ken and the rest of the guys went into the studio on the last week of May to listen and evaluate the recordings they did at Brierley Hill, for a live CD planned to be released in the coming future. There are also serious plans for a Free Spirit studio album, and Ken adds: "No recording yet... still recovering from Russia! But we have done some 'composing', messing around with new ideas and I am sure that 5 weeks together on a tour bus will yield all kinds of good things. I have about 6 songs finished anyway (plus tons of bits and pieces) but I want to go in with as much 'Free Spirit' in this album as possible so we will spend a lot of time in pre-production. For me the most exciting thing is simply the idea of doing an entire album with the band..... I KNOW this will make a big (and highly positive) difference!!"

There were some delays on the release of some items at the KH Online Store, but they are being all sorted out. The revised "A Glimpse Of Glory" CD is now ready and being shipped to all those who have ordered it. As for the original "Running Blind" CD, the art is still being finished after some problems with the first pressing, but this is being pushed very hard everyday, so it won't be long! Meanwhile, "Running Blind" is currently the number 1 selling CD in Russia! Also, those who ordered the advance copies will be receiving the extra bonus Video CD and the definitive booklet soon, as they were received by Ken's crew on May 27th. The video was recorded on MPEG1 format, so it will virtually play anywhere on anything.

Finally, Ken has been doing some interviews with magazines such as "Break Out", "Access All Areas" and "Melodic Journey" in Germany and also a live interview on Premier Christian Radio in London. There will also be a film crew at the Heidelberg gig, shooting three songs and an after-show interview. Ken is planning to videotape the whole tour and he will be feeding the website with the next parts of his Chronicles and pictures as they go along!

## More Than Conquerors DVD Now Available

From the London Forum last December, Classic Rock Legends has released a DVD of the event along with two soundtrack CDs. The DVD "More Than Conquerors" features the entire show. The CD of the same title is the tracks featuring Ken Hensley and a separate CD release called, "One Way Or Another" features John Wetton's contribution to this memorable event. Each are available through most music outlets or through the Classic Rock Legends website.







## THE MAGICIANS BIRTHDAY PARTY DVD PREMIERE

*Contributed by: Mike Taylor*

A warm spring evening in London played host to the premiere of arguably the most eagerly awaited release of Heep's career. Denise and I arrived in London about 6pm and walked into a buzzing Leicester square. There were people everywhere and what a cosmopolitan place it is. We found a restaurant and sat at a table outside and enjoyed a pleasant meal doing a bit of people watching as we ate.

At 7.30 we entered Planet Hollywood to find quite a few people already there. I'm sure it said it was a black tie do, so there I was dressed accordingly, but I was the only one!

Oh shit had I got it wrong? Luckily I spotted Paul Rickard in a Bow tie and a short time later Bernie arrived dressed the part. I felt better. Not all Heep were there, no Lee or Trevor but Mick, Bernie and Phil were joined by Ken and John so we were not disappointed. I had a chat with Steve 'Stunning' Dunning and was introduced to John's new guitarist, a Canadian named Errol (I'm not sure how to spell it) (yeah I know.. IT). A really nice guy and John is very enthusiastic about him. Anyway we move into the small luxury cinema and settle down to watch the film. I found myself sitting next to Dave Ling from Classic rock magazine. We discussed the recent Free Spirit gig at the Mean Fiddler and he said it was one of the best gigs he'd been to in a long time and was particularly impressed with The Return.

Bob Carruthers (not in bow tie) introduced the film and off we went. Well, what can I say??? It was bloody fantastic. OK I know I'm easily pleased as I just like good music and don't look at the negatives, but even looking hard I'm struggling to find any. Perhaps the running order may be one as it's not the same as the concert and there are one or two small (very small) continuity errors where what we're watching doesn't match what we're hearing. But they are small. The running order is: **Stealin', Return to Fantasy, Tales, Sweet Pretender, Between Two Worlds, Mistress of All Time, I'll Keep on Trying, July Morning, Sunrise, Paradise / The Spell, Circle of Hands, Easy Livin', The Magician's Birthday, Sympathy, Free 'n' Easy.**

The CD is great but you really have to watch the film to appreciate it. Words really do fail me. Bob C and his team have done an amazing job. 3 songs received loud applause from the watching audience, Mistress of all Time, July Morning, and Magician's Birthday. Mistress of all time with Mr Van Leer on flute was particularly impressive. I know I was there at the Empire but just watching those guy's perform was jaw dropping. Micks guitar was flawless, Trevor's bass was .....crap.....no thats what he said to Pete.....In fact it was incredible. I love the bass and I just don't know how he does it. Lee was a little hidden up there behind those glass screens but I'm sure he gets better. Phil was obviously enjoying things so perhaps he likes having Ken around. Seeing Ken on film with Heep....well...what can I say and John...what a voice. It's interesting that the two heaviest songs are Sympathy and Free 'n' Easy, and I though the Lawton era was Heeps poppiest. I've left Bernie to the end as his performance just goes to prove **HE IS THE MAN**. No rock singer / performer can get close. In between some of the songs we have snippets from the Kensington Hilton Press conference and Festival club events where a few Heepsters are now famous, Mr Barry Hoffman for one. Ron, Madman and Mac, you're all now famous or should I say infamous. When the film had finished, as we got up to go back to the VIP lounge there Dave Ling, with a big grin on his face said 'thats got to be worth a 6' meaning a 6 out of 5 rating in Classic Rock magazine. Hopefully he'll deliver and not change his mind. Anyway after a few conversations with everyone Denise and I had to leave to get through the heavy 11pm London Traffic in an effort to get our ferry back to the Isle of Wight.

Regarding the DVD itself. It's really nicely presented in a fold out pack including CD, DVD and booklet. In addition to the concert there are extra features including more of the Hilton Festival club and John and Steve's acoustic session, some scenes from The Chippewa Rock festival in the US on 22nd July last year ( I really liked this bit), a bonus track from the Empire in the form of Logical Progression, some great still pictures and some promo stuff for other DVD's and Heep merchandise. Oh..yes..the main concert is in Widescreen. In a nutshell...The best concert video I've seen.





## 'David Byron Remembered'

### Hammersmith Odeon, London, England

*June 22nd 1974*

*Contributed by: Jeff Perkins*

"England's Own Uriah Heep" I was lucky enough to be there and seeing David Byron on stage was an experience I would never forget. Well here I am aged 44 still Uriah Heep crazy and living in a small village in Essex England. I spend every spare moment I can when my full time job allows writing about this legend called David Byron. I've never written anything like this before, so how did it come about? I got involved in a large discussion one day and found myself passionately defending the position that David had been unjustly forgotten by the music press since he died in 1985. Someone suggested that I

*Photo contributed by Dan Diehl*

try and put that right.....and I took up the challenge. David Byron:- Remembered was born!

I have since been overwhelmed with the support that this project has received. I have contributions and promised contributions from Nigel Olsson, Clem Clempson, Robin George, Denny Ball, Mick Box and Ken Hensley (when they get a spare moment) and close friends of David himself. I'm in the process of trying to add to that list. Along with my wife Debbie we have photographed every part of David's life that we can, schools, houses, pubs, clubs, weddings, birth places and the place where he tragically died. It has been an emotional journey. We have letters, documents and never seen before photographs. Hopefully this might just whet the appetite but for those wanting to delve deeply into David's private life then maybe this isn't the book for you. This is written to celebrate a man and his ability through his contribution to world rock music in an attempt to put that injustice right. I can only hope that he would have liked it, and I hope that you do too.

The book will hopefully be ready in time for The Magicians Birthday Party 2002. It has become a labour of love along the way we have met so many wonderful people. It has been a journey through David's life and I will never forget the time spent on this project. When the book comes out I hope to put some links on various Heep sites and get my computer genius friend to finish my half built web site (watch out for the address). Anyone wanting to go on the pre-order list please email me at [Rockingrodents@btopenworld.com](mailto:Rockingrodents@btopenworld.com) giving your name and address and I'll email you regularly with progress reports. The price hasn't been finalised yet. The more pictures the more expensive but I will try and keep the costs down as far as possible!

Please continue to follow the current **Uriah Heep** line up who are truly superb and whom I would like to thank for continuing the legend and giving me years of total pleasure.



*Photo contributed by Dan Diehl*



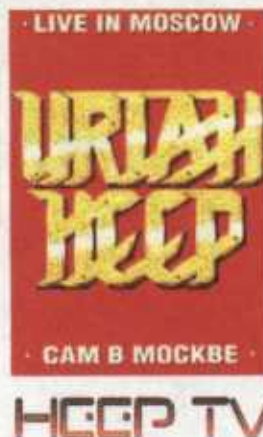
[www.travellers-in-time.com](http://www.travellers-in-time.com)



## "Live In Moscow" Heep TV Review

Contributed by: Alan (ALE) Edlund

Watching the evolutionary stature of a band growing up along with you is a rare and seldom noticed gift given to the public. Uriah Heep is one such band that given a moment's reflection, one will find have always been there in the soundtrack of your life. Despite the numerous personnel changes and musical directions the band has taken over the years, the essential core of honest rock 'n' roll: soaring vocals, strong harmonies, intricate workings of guitar, keyboard and bass, have remained and are still the cornerstone of the bands makeup. An offering of this gift Uriah Heep provides is the soon to be re-released 1987 documentary, "Live in Moscow."



Here we get a glimpse into the cohesive bonding of what is to become the most stable lineup of the band, newly recruited lead vocalist Bernie Shaw and short-term veteran keyboardist Phil Lanzon join in flawless performances with the founding veteran guitarist Mick Box; the redoubtable Lee Kerslake on drums and Trevor Bolder's thundering bass work. As Uriah Heep was the first western rock band to be allowed to perform within the Soviet Union, we are presented with a rather amusing mistaken identity incident at the beginning of the film in which a local reporter is unable to recognize the members of band departing a plane from the just arrived flight, from there we are solidly reminded of who Uriah Heep is from the rousing opening chords of Pacific Highway followed into the grinding guitar of Too Scared to Run, Uriah Heep proves that good music has no boundaries or limits in appreciation.

We are allowed witness to Bernie's early stage presence development, while at times he seems stiff and easily resembles Peter Goalby in his movements; it is refreshing to watch his unabashed amazement at Mick's lighting fretwork. The enjoyment these musicians derive from performing with each other is captured in the good humor and ease they demonstrate moving through the concert's play list of stalwart Heep classics: Bird of Prey, Stealin', The Wizard, July Morning, Easy Livin', Gypsy, along with the new era tunes of Too Scared to Run and That's The Way That It Is. As each song is presented it becomes more and more apparent that this lineup is more than adequate to carry on in the finest Heep tradition. The performance is given heroic significance by the introduction of three new tracks, the opening Pacific Highway, Corina and Phil Lanzon's presentation of Mister Majestic exhibiting the new song making capability of the band.

Scattered throughout the video against the concert soundtrack are scenes of the band out in the streets of Moscow performing Beatle-istic camera muggings that would have been bettered suited in an extra feature at the end of the film. It is rather like watching old home movies where everyone appears to be having a good time but we aren't allowed in on the joke. The insight none the less proves that the admiration of the fans is genuine, as in one scene we see Mick giving an autograph to one enthusiast who immediately aggrandizes it with kisses, as if given something precious. Now who can argue with that?

The Live in Moscow concert can be viewed on line by pointing your web browser to [www.heeptv.com](http://www.heeptv.com) or by following the link from the Uriah Heep official web site at [www.uriah-heep.com](http://www.uriah-heep.com). The effort is minimal and secure and you will be able to watch your selection within minutes of placing your order. As an added bonus the online viewing purchase price will be applied as a discount if you choose to order the DVD copy of the concert.

As streaming video is still a relatively new technology some limitations are to be expected, but to be able to see rare and exclusive concert footage and other performances they are easy to overlook. The worst drawback of internet video is that for best clarity of picture you should limit your viewing screen size. Double screen or full screen will severely cause distortion and breakup of the picture, but at the original size the picture came through smooth and clear.

As this is a live concert, emphasize should be given to the sound and here I can find no reason to complain or find fault. The sound is delivered in CD quality format and allows you to enjoy every subtle keyboard tickle, guitar string teasing

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## Heep TV Review

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and thunderous wall of music that Uriah Heep is famous for. (If you haven't upgraded your PC sound system, I highly recommend you should to truly enjoy this feature).

The Live in Moscow concert footage is a very nice look back at one of the milestones of this band and I recommend it to all. Given all the varied opinions of which line-up was best Messer Box, Kerlake, Bolder, Lanzon and Shaw have proved themselves a capable band at least, and very deserving of the name Uriah Heep.

In spite of it all, Uriah Heep has passed thirty years of continuous existence as a band, and God willing they be around for another thirty, because hopefully by then the rest of the world will have discovered what we Uriah Heep fans have known all along: **"Uriah Heep are a band that are very 'eavy, very 'umble and very very good."** [1]

[1] 1996 Robert M. Corich, A Time of Revelation CD Box set liner notes page 47

## My Wonderworld

### Contributed by: Don Ellis

When coming up with an idea for this article, it was important for me to come with something original. This is why I came to the decision to explain what role Uriah Heep played in my youth. Anyway, I hope you enjoy, and possibly connect with what is inside. Enjoy.

I first became aware of Uriah Heep in the summer of 1971. The local FM rock station was really pushing material from Very eavy, and Salisbury. The first song I ever heard was Gypsy. After that I was never the same. In my early youth I was a serious music fan. However, one week Steppenwolf would be my favorite band, the next week The Guess Who, the next Black Sabbath, etc., you get the picture. But when I heard Gypsy everything changed. To me Uriah Heep were like a hard rocking Three Dog Night. You had the heavy hammond, mutiple harmonies. Great melodic hard rock on the heavy side. The first Uriah Heep album I ever owned was Demons & Wizards. It was a Christmas gift. Man I wore that one out. The same day I got it, I learned all the lyrics. I wasn't very outgoing as a teenager. Life at home to say the least was very tense. With Uriah Heep I could excape into my own little Wonderworld. Yes I said Wonderworld as that is the imaginary world I could go to get away from all the problems of the day. Even before Heep released Wonderworld, I used that word as my own, and when Heep put out Wonderworld, it really connected me to Heep. In my teenage mind it was like I had a connection with Ken Hensley. And later on when I found out his place of refuge was the imaginary Wonderworld, it made me feel a special bond. Uriah Heep could always blow the blues away. When I would buy a new Heep album. I would study it thoroughly and within a day or two I knew all the lyrics by heart. Uriah Heep are like a religion to me. Now I find myself 30 years later in my mid forties, and Uriah Heep still give me that special rush that no other music artist will. Anyway, these are my thoughts. I hope you enjoy me letting you into MY WONDERWORLD. I hope you enjoyed yourselves. HEEP ON.

## Diary of the Madman

### Contributed by: Merrick Crittenden

GREETINGS boys and girls and even you the wild ones of all ages ha ha ha. AS most of you know The magians Birthday DVD is out and should be showing up soon. I ordered mine way in advance and cannot control my self. But with the early shipment of the magians bithday party on cd live from SHEPARDS BUSH EMPIRE I will be able to make it. I have to say being there was great. All the friends i have made because of this band called URIAH HEEP is incredible. For those who wer not there don'y worry we get to do all again in November. To be in London is always fun for me and seeing my favortie band, life is like YEAH.. NOW if your like me the madman or want to have some fun go grab an ice cold adult beverage and crank up some URIAH HEEP. It doesn't matter which CD / album you put on because the thrills and chills and spills ((((( well that is if you had as many adult ice cold beverages i have had today hahahahahahahaha bbuURP !!!)))) and excitment of listenig to URIAH HEEP the worlds greatest band will put you in outer space well it does me hahahahaha (((wondering if i am having flash backs?? hhhmmm??)) Remember only you can stop noise pollution , put on some URIAH HEEP and make the world a better palce. HAHAHA HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA. SEE you next time for an action packed funfilled tales and thoughts and random acts of madness from the MADMAN . P.S. URIAH HEEP FOREVER



# *The Other Side Of Midnight*

*Contributed by: Anononyous*

It was about 11 AM on 12/31/76 and a heavy snow was starting to fall on central Ohio. However, I was not going to let even the weather distract me on this day as I was making the final preparations for my trip to Cleveland's Richfield Coliseum to bring in the New Year with Uriah Heep. This promised to be one of the truly great New Year's Eve celebrations of my life and all the arrangements for meeting up with the band had been made a few days earlier at a show in Dayton. The Dayton show had been unique as I had been introduced to the new band members, John Lawton and Trevor Bolder, for the first time as well as Mick's new bride Diane. So with all the final preparations made I wished my family Happy New Year, picked up an old high school friend to accompany me on the trip and headed off to the North Coast.

The plan was to meet up with Dell Roll and the rest of the road crew at the backstage door at about 4 PM as that would be the time they were arriving to set up for the show (they would be opening for Blue Oyster Cult). The snow storm raged on and in fact bordered on being a full blown blizzard but we continued on our journey as nothing was going to keep us from this appointment. Once we had arrived at the Coliseum the whole parking lot was covered with about two feet of snow and plows were starting the job of clearing things for that night's show. So we proceeded to the back of the building and found where staff members had parked and headed down the backstage ramp. The crew had not arrived yet but security was kind enough to let us wait inside. About twenty minutes later the crew showed up and the work of getting the show set up commenced. Usually we would get to assist with the set up but since Heep was not the headliner and the promoter did not have backstage passes available yet we had to sit on the equipment cases so some unknowing security officer did not try to throw us out. While this beat waiting outside in the snow, the location did serve as a constant reminder what was going on outside as each time the backstage door opened the cold and snow blew in. After about two hours, the band showed up and we were able to secure passes and move around more freely to thaw out and explore.

I can not remember who the opening act was as I had stayed in the dressing room to talk with the band. However, about twenty minutes before Heep was to go on I wandered out into the Coliseum to look things over and see what kind of mood the crowd was in. As I looked around the building, I could feel the energy and excitement build in anticipation of Heep's arrival on stage. As I turned, I saw that Lee was standing beside me and you could tell by the smile on his face that he was really enjoying the atmosphere. Just then a large limo pulled up to the stage and a rather inebriated older gentleman literally poured out of the back and was helped to a microphone at center stage. He mumbled some incoherent words that got the crowd worked up then was thrown back into the limo which promptly drove off. As the limo left the building I learned the gentleman was Allen Freed, the historic DJ that supposedly coined the phrase rock n' roll. However, on this given night I do not think he could spell those same words. Needless to say my view of Mr. Freed went down a bit that night and it was a bit tough to see a supposed legend reduced to such a state. However, my disillusionment with Rock was about to be short lived as the house lights went down and the crowd roared in anticipation of Heep hitting the stage.

As the band walked by Lee waved me to come along and I followed to take my usual position whenever I had the opportunity to be on stage in those days immediately behind Ken. What a rush it was to watch the crowd react as the band tore into one of their typical fiery sets. The new lead singer and bass player fit right into the blend as if they had always been there and the crowd was treated to a truly delightful New Year's Eve gift. It was tough trying to figure out how BOC was going to follow up on such a performance and sustain the crowd's energy until midnight. Let's just say Cleveland was already in flames with rock n' roll. However, that was their problem as the band and I departed the building at about 10:30 PM for the Richfield Holiday Inn and a more private celebration to ring in the New Year.

After the short drive to the hotel we set up residency in the bar. The entourage basically broke up into three groups. Lee had slide off to the far side of the bar and was talking to two young ladies. Ken was sitting quietly by himself at

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the bar as earlier at the show someone had stolen a special personal item of his from the dressing room which somewhat dampened his celebratory mood. The rest of us were huddled at a couple of tables in the center of the room. Mick, Trevor, John and I had the opportunity to tip a few drinks and talk in a bit more depth than we had at the show a few nights before. I had not been familiar with John's past works and this was a good opportunity to learn a bit more. As for Trevor, what can I say but what a fanatic experience to be sitting and talking with one of the legendary "Spiders From Mars". Holding the whole thing together was Mick and Diane who were acting as the perfect hosts.

Shortly before midnight, Lee called me over to ask me to help him with a predicament. It seems he had promised to give the two young ladies he was conversing with a New Year's celebratory kiss before he had realized that there was more to them than he had realized (i.e. once one of them had gotten up to go to the restroom it became obvious that the baggie outfits they were wearing served more than a decorative purpose) and he was wondering if I would mind helping him up by acting as his surrogate. Being a bit more observant, I informed him that I did not think I could fill in for him but still might have a solution. We introduced the ladies to the friend that had come with me and we both sauntered off to join the rest. Shortly there after my friend rejoined us having taken care of Lee's promise. At this time several bottles of champagne were passed out in anticipation of the quickly approaching midnight hour. However, a small problem arose in that the bottles had been stored in a freezer and the necks had frozen shut. We all sat the champagne down to thaw and started to order back up drinks when my friend, determined to have champagne at the stroke of midnight, started to shake the ice out of one of the bottles. As one would anticipate he successfully dislodged the ice but at the price of an uncontrollable champagne volcano which soaked a well-dressed lady at the next table. Thankfully she was a good sport and jokingly took the bottle away asking that we please allow her to pour. So, with this mission accomplished we all properly toasted the New Year in. At this point, I went over for a private toast with Ken, still sitting by himself at the bar, sharing how sorry I was that the earlier event had lessened his ability to enjoy the moment. At this point he just smiled and exclaimed that it was okay that it was just a material item and how the greater gift was the friends around him. We toasted the New Year and he joined the rest of us in celebration.

The partying continued full throttle from this point on. About a half-hour later, there was a lot of commotion in the lobby and I wondered out to investigate. It seems my friend had gone into the restroom to make more room for additional beverages and while standing at the urinal Lee had sneaked up behind him and grabbing him by the back belt loop taking off out the door into the lobby at a full run. Unprepared for what was happening my friend created his second champagne, though somewhat recycled this time, spray of the night. Everyone, even my friend, got a good laugh and we headed back into the bar. The lady who had earlier gotten sprayed with the pre-consumed champagne said she was going to quit while she was ahead and bid us all a good night. Needless to say, each time I went to the restroom the rest of the night I kept a cautious eye over my shoulder.

About 1 AM things were starting to die down when Lee decided to liven things up again and started a huge conga line that weaved all over the bar, out into the lobby and back again for about 15 minutes. At this point, I collapsed into a chair totally exhausted and was ready to call it quits. A young lady recognized my predicament and offered to help me to my room. It seems Hall and Oates had performed in town that night and she was a dancer in the show or at least that is what she told me. Once in my room I was to learn she felt a good remedy for what ailed me was intense physical activity. Though I had my doubts, I found myself a willing patient and was soon to learn her treatment was just what the doctor ordered. I also gained a new appreciation that night for the physical stamina and flexibility of dancers.

About 2 AM my friend showed up at the room with two more young ladies and we all set down to talk when suddenly the phone rang. The voice on the other end claimed to be the Bear (Lee's moniker at that time) and that he had some more champagne and was heading to the room. About five minutes later Lee arrived with a couple bottles and we all sat around and talked some more. After a while Lee became emotional and told us all Mick's wife had become ill and had been taken to the local hospital. We talked for a while about the unfortunate situation then all decided to finally

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end the party or so I thought.

Everyone left my room except for one of the young ladies who had come up with my friend. It seems she felt I looked a bit down and wanted to stay and help me out. Fortunately, it seems she was a believer in the same method of curing ones woes as the dancer so we commenced another aggressive physical treatment regimen. Once again, the therapy proved very helpful.

Finally daybreak came and I started to prepare to leave for home. The hotel informed us that the band had departed earlier for their next show (somewhere in Kentucky) and that Mick's wife was better. Going outside to get in the car we found the snow had stopped falling but about four-foot was on the ground. I stirred the car onto what I hoped was the road and head south towards home. Once home my parents asked how things had gone and probed for a little detail but obviously this was a case where the less said the better and I just told them I had a great time. They knew that with out asking by the smile on my face. Since I was now heading towards my third day without sleep, I headed off to bed. I would like to say I had some good dreams but after the events of the past few days what was there left to dream about. This was by far a New Year's celebration for the record book and I guess you can say I definitely got a taste for life on the other side of midnight.

2003. Geez! Are we really going to have to wait almost another year?? I love the live albums but we've already got 25 live versions of Easy Livin'. We want new songs! I make a proposal to Heep, Bob Carruthers, Pip Williams.... whoever! Hear me out on this one. You could release an EP in the Fall... say about September. It could include 3 or 4 new songs with a bonus song or two from the Magician's Birthday Party. You could even include one of the songs not included on the MBP DVD. It would be a great product to have available for this year's Magician's Birthday Party. If you do this for us, I promise to quit bitching. Well, I promise to try anyway! :-> Do we have a deal?

## An Open Letter To The Powers That Be!

**Contributed by: Mac Steagall / [www.travellers-in-time.com](http://www.travellers-in-time.com)**

It's now been nearly four years since Uriah Heep released a studio album. Long gone are the days where bands released two albums a year. The reasons are obvious. In the 70s, albums were 35 to 40 minutes. Today albums are often close to 80 minutes..... essentially a double album by 70s standards. Additionally, Heep is touring band. Their heavy touring schedule has paid the bills over the years while their royalty percentages have been miniscule. Although Heep had a brutal touring schedule in the 70s, management at the time apparently was less concerned with the band's health. Studio sessions were squeezed into the schedule causing additional stress. Over the years, several band members have quit the band due to exhaustion. Finally, Heep's annual special event in London (Acoustically Driven, TMBP) requires many days of rehearsal and arrangement leaving very little time to write new songs much less go into the studio.

Luckily over the four years we haven't been deprived of new Heep CDs. We've been treated to live albums and DVDs galore..... The Legend Continues, Future Echoes of the Past, Acoustically Driven, Electrically Driven, The Magician's Birthday Party and even the Remasters. However it is time... it's PAST time for a few new songs!

Originally the plan was for a new studio release in 2002. Now in May of 2002, the reports say 1/3 album is written (6 songs) but the estimated release date has been set back to Spring

### Tapio Minkinen's

# THE HEEPFILES

<http://www.saunalahti.fi/~htaplom/index3.htm>

### Dave Sherrod's



# BOOTLEGS

<http://skywebsite.com/ds-heep/URIAHHEEPBOOTLEGS/id21.html>

### Jay Pearson's

# THE MUSIC OF URIAH HEEP

<http://www.geocities.com/deepheep>

### Pete Wharton's

# FAQ'S

<http://www.uheep.freemove.co.uk/uheep/faqframe.htm>



# John Lawton & Steve Dunning • Steppin' It Up

*Contributed by: Pete Wharton*

A short while ago, I had the pleasure of sitting in on a day's recording of John Lawton and Steve Dunning's new semi-acoustic album, *Steppin It Up*. Since then I've been allowed a sneak preview of the finished songs, though not in the final CD order (I've left my original comments in for *I'm Alive*, though it's replaced by *Still Paying My Dues* as the Opener.) With the imminent arrival of the "new baby" into the catalogue, I thought I'd share what were my initial impressions of some of the songs and perhaps bring you up to date with the CD launch and John's future plans. You may also be interested to know which people play what on which tracks. Finally some question and answers with John. These were some ramblings from scribbled notes as and when I had chance to listen. What is nice overall is that it just keeps growing on me more and more and as with all the best you keep noticing more little bits all the time. I've added some of John's notes to my comments as well.

**I'm Alive** .....all guitars, Steve, Rich (drums) Steve Simmons (sax) JL (vocals). Good choice of opener. It's uptempo and let's you know from the start that this is not going to be just another straight forward acoustic playing of songs. The flamenco style guitar riffs work well, once you get used to the concept and there's some excellent guitar as the track fades out.

**Still Paying My Dues**.....all guitars, Steve, Phil (keys) Rich (drums) JL (vocals, harp) Graham Hulme (bv's) Like the harmonica at the start. Retains the rocky blues feel and yet resists the temptation to become too country. This is definitely aided by the use of the piano. Keep on playing this song, it's great.

**Firefly/Come Back to Me**.....all guitars, Steve, Rich (drums) Steve Simmons (sax) JL (vocals). A beautiful mellow sax opening to Firefly which keeps reappearing to re-emphasise the mellowness, works beautifully as a link to Come Back to Me where it's alternate use of adding some power features well. Firefly returns to finish and you have to mention the outstanding harmony vocals and the sax as the song fades out. Brilliant version. I'm so laid back with this that I'm horizontal.

**Burning Ships**.....all guitars, Steve, Rich (drums) Phil (keys) JL (vocals). I like it. How it compares with the LF version I don't know. I thought I had *When Groupies Killed The Blues* but blowed if I can find it. This is definitely pleasant and listenable though, from the opening guitar on. Love the change from the gentle opening to the full on power section. There is a slightly unusual sound to the keyboards, but it works.

**Wise Man**..... all guitars, Steve, JL (vocals). Difficult to say anything about this that hasn't been said before. All I can say is it went down an absolute storm at HV2K and this is just as good.

**Feelings**.....all guitars, Steve, Rich (drums) JL (vocals). Again a Spanish guitar style intro before the usual shuffle. Nothing particularly unusual in this version other than to mention how pleasant it is to hear this on an official release with decent vocals. Great harmony and background vocals also. Actually that's what makes this version so good, I can listen to it instead of going into contortions trying to get those meandering vocals out of my head.

**Rain**.....all guitars, Steve, Rich (drums) JL (vocals) Graham Hulme (bv's) Erol (guitar solo) If I'm going to find something nitpicky, it's in this. It's a great interpretation and instrumentally brilliant. There is just the line "Why should you want to waste all my time" that is broken up and stressed differently to how you expect and it just jars a bit. That said, when you expect the song to end, it carries on for another minute with some lovely guitar work that sounds very Eric Claptonish and the backing vocals fit beautifully. **(JL Note): Erol on guitar at the end. They were trying to lock up for the night at the studio, but we needed to get the solo finished and even as they were packing away, he was still playing, no pressure though :-))))))))))))))))))))))))))))))**

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