

DESERT STAR WEEKLY



Photographer Carla Huntington

LUCKY MAN

Greg Lake pg.3

Cemetery Going Dead? pg.5

Bullwinkle at Harrison House pg.13



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Lucky Man

GREG LAKE AT LA QUINTA RESORT

BY DEAN GRAY

La Quinta, CA - Joining us in the desert this weekend is the musician, songwriter and singer who helped define progressive rock - that fusion of classical, jazz, blues and rock music. Greg Lake will play the La Quinta Resort this Friday night in an intimate setting more like a conversation than a concert.

The casual style of the affair is as if Lake is personally entertaining you in your living room.

"I stumbled upon this after writing my autobiography, **Lucky Man**" Lake said, sounding positive. "With influential songs I'd share with audiences over the years, in journeys I found the audience had their own stories about the tunes they wanted to share."

Back then (the 1970s and 1980s) it was a shared experience with people gathering around in their circle to hear the latest albums and to examine album cover art which was often daring and experimental.

"What I've done is immediate apparent," Lake said. "The audience really got on board making certain it was a roller coaster of surprises. Not predictable and not boring was important. The challenge really was for me to make it always fresh and appealing, for me to go out there each night like walking in a family room, like you've only been away for a short while. It's an amazing feeling of interactive bonding."

Greg Lake's tunes have been running in our heads for decades such as "Lucky Man" (*Emerson, Lake & Palmer*), "The Sage" (*Pictures at an Exhibition*), "From the Beginning" (*Trilogy*), "Still... You Turn Me On" (*Brain Salad Surgery*) and "C'est la Vie" (*Works Volume 1*). Lake enjoyed tremendous success with best selling albums and stadium appearances yet he is also popularly known for his Christmas single, "I Believe in Father Christmas"

"Songs of a Lifetime" is Lake's unique one-man-show touring intimate venues allowing him to talk with the audience in a small and focused setting with special effects.

Lake left his London home to start his tour in Quebec before bringing his show to the eastern seaboard in Boston then Florida, and Texas. He prepared himself for our heat while in Arizona, just before arriving here in the Coachella Valley for this special event. After this, Lake's off to Europe and Asia for his unique presentation.

"It's not just my material," Lake said. "I'm bringing in songs from other places as well; including a song by Elvis who was a big influence upon me. I'm painting a broader picture of how life went."

Greg Lake came to prominence as a founding member of King Crimson with guitarist Robert Fripp. "In The Court of



the Crimson King", released in 1969, made King Crimson a key influence and landmark in the emerging progressive rock genre. Lake's vocals, which ranged from serene and soothing to acerbic and distorted, were a striking element of the album. However, Lake soon left to start the rock trio Emerson, Lake & Palmer, forming the 'supergroup,' ELP.

From the outset, Lake filled acoustic guitar, electric guitar, bass, lyrics, vocals and production duties for the band. The trio did not make use of external producers for any of their albums in the 1970s, nor did they ever employ session players for studio work or live performances.

ELP became highly commercially successful in the 1970s (with album sales totalling more than 30 million), and

significantly contributed to the evolution of progressive rock. Lake contributed to many of ELP's songs but was particularly noticeable for his guitar-orientated and soulful ballads.

On their debut album (*Emerson, Lake & Palmer*), Lake included an acoustic song called "Lucky Man", based on a poem he had written at the age of 12. In determining the direction of the band, Lake's focus on ballads, radio-friendly material and "down-to-earth" compositions contrasting sharply with Emerson's desire to create rock symphonies and polyphonic, poly-rhythmic suites. The result was that ELP continuously merged classical and blues styles, producing albums with bewildering mixtures of classical pieces,

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How Safe Are We

CRIMES AGAINST THE ELDERLY

Crimes against the elderly are on a rapid rise, and specifically here in our valley. Criminals seek out their elderly victims because they are perceived as helpless and easy targets.

Some of the current scams being used on elderly victims are the following:

- Calls from scammers claiming to be family that are in trouble and need money. They will ask their victims to wire transfer money to them.
- Calls from scammers claiming their victims have won a lottery. They will say that in order to receive the money, they must pay taxes and transfer fees.
- Prepaid credit cards: Some prepaid cards are a scam. Scammers will call and tell their victims they have won a car or other large luxury items and tell their victims they need to add money to cover the taxes. After receiving that money, they will call back and ask for licensing fees. After receiving that money, they will call again and say that the taxes have increased, and that more money must be added. These additional charges will continue as long as their victims keep adding the money.

Don't fall victim to these crimes. Here are a few

tips to avoid becoming a victim:

- Do not give money over the phone or solicitation via emails, i.e. credit card or bank info, or wire transfers unless it is a trusted person or business. Banks and other organizations will not ask for account numbers, credit card numbers, passwords or other personal information over the phone or via emails.
- If a caller tells you the offer is only good at that time, or if the offer sounds too good to be true, it's usually a scam. Do not give them any personal info, especially account or credit card numbers.
- Before wiring money to a family member claiming to be in trouble, confirm with another family member the validity of the claim.
- Never allow anyone into your home, even if they claim to need to use the phone or restroom, or in need of medical treatment. If they appear to need medical treatment have them wait outside while you call 911.
- If asked to invest in a company or other business from someone that you have not reached out to, do not give them any personal info, i.e. credit cards, cash, or checks.



For more information on how you can protect yourself or an elderly loved one against these scams, other crimes, safety, or elderly abuse, please contact The Monee Group at info@themoneegroup.com, or call (760) 342-2977.

LUCKY MAN • CONTINUED FROM PG 3

ballads, hard rock songs and epic-length suites.

After their debut album, ELP recorded a live performance of their treatment of *Pictures at an Exhibition*, which brought in elements of electric rock, jazz and blues. The third album introduced Lake's ballad *From the Beginning* which was their most commercially successful single.

With ELP steadily becoming one of the highest-grossing live acts on earth, they released their most ambitious album yet in 1973, *Brain Salad Surgery*. Once again, Lake contributed a soulful ballad - "*Still... You Turn Me On*" - and was able to match the grandiose playing of Emerson and Palmer



not only with tight guitar and bass work, the classic line "*Welcome back my friends to the show that never ends,*" ensured that Lake's

vocals and ELP's unique brand of musicality would continue to gain popular recognition.

ELP's massive commercial success continued when they were the headline act (along with Deep Purple) at 1974's California Jam, where they played to 180,000 people. Throughout the 1970s, Lake was known as the svelte singer who could nonetheless deliver powerful, rasping vocals.

After the break-up of ELP, Lake played a few concerts with the group Asia in 1983, released two well-received solo albums, reunited with King Crimson, and toured, as well as performing with the Trans Siberian Orchestra.

While many of his lyrics defy simple interpretation, his simple ballads have endured as well-regarded love songs (*Still You Turn Me On* and *Closer to Believing*, for example). Although he does write about many typical progressive rock themes - for example, war and apocalypse - he was unique throughout the 1970s with his regular output of comical songs such as "*Jeremy Bender*", "*The Sheriff*" and "*Benny the Bouncer*."

Greg Lake at La Quinta should be fun for all. VIP Packages can be purchased at www.greglake.com which enables guests to attend Greg Lake's soundcheck before the show and to enjoy a special backstage invitation to receive a limited edition laminated backstage pass, a special autographed item from Greg, Greg Lake CD plus two premium tickets to show.

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