

## Interview: Greg Lake opens up his career to audience for 'Songs of a Lifetime'

GREG LAKE | MARCH 26, 2013 | BY: STEVE MARINUCCI |



Greg Lake

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[Greg Lake](http://www.greglake.com/) (<http://www.greglake.com/>) is taking the stories in his songs and bringing them back in concert. He's released an album, "[Songs of a Lifetime.](#)"

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which came about, he says, putting together memories of a different kind.

The idea came about when I was writing my autobiography, 'Lucky Man,' which is going to be released later this year," he said in a phone interview. As I was writing it, these songs would pop up from time to time that were important in some way or that had a story attached to them. And I realized at the end of it when I collected all these songs together what they represented was the journey I shared together with the audience over this past 40 years."

Lake has had an extensive musical career. He first came into prominence with King Crimson, which he said tried to be unique.

We really wanted the band to be different, something original and unique. The thing we decided to do, really, was instead of looking towards American [music \(http://www.examiner.com/music\)](http://www.examiner.com/music) for an influence, which most rock 'n' roll did do, we decided to use more European music as a basis for the influence of King Crimson. And I think that was really what defined what is now called 'progressive music.'"

Emerson, Lake and Palmer was an extension of that, he says. Keith was in this band called The Nice. They similarly used a lot of European classical music in their show. I think it was the fact Keith and I had a similar outlook on music that was the reason we put it together."

ELP was also known for lavish shows. But Lake says the show wasn't the only thing. For us, the production and the show element was always part of the music. We didn't do some sort of spectacle for the sake of it. We tried to link all of our visual things directly with the music because that way it's more effective."

In 2001, he toured with Ringo Starr and the All-Starr Band. He wasn't the person I was expecting. He's a lot better player than I really thought. He's a very disciplined person, Ringo. And I suppose my impression previously of him, although I realized he was great at what he did. You only have to listen to the drum part and focus on the drum parts in the Beatles and hear that they're all flawless, you know."

But he says **"Songs of a Lifetime,"** [http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00APPJNWG/ref=as\\_li\\_ss\\_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=B00APPJNWG&linkCode=as2&tag=abbeyrdsbeatlesp](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00APPJNWG/ref=as_li_ss_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=B00APPJNWG&linkCode=as2&tag=abbeyrdsbeatlesp) is a great experience, for him and the audience.

I just enjoy doing it. It's a fascinating and pleasurable show to play. It's more like a family gathering, really. It's like having your friends all 'round, and of course, the storytelling, which is not on the [CD \(http://www.examiner.com/topic/cd\)](http://www.examiner.com/topic/cd), is the audience's storytelling, because a lot of it is very personal in that sense. You often get people to tell very tragic stories. And some nights you'll have half the audience in tears, then five minutes later, they'll all be laughing.

Lake says the show has been filmed for a DVD. I already filmed it once in Italy at a place called Piacenza. So we'll be releasing that at some point. I may film it again in the United States just because it's a fascinating show.

One of the things I was very determined was that it wouldn't become one of those 'legend in his own lunchtime,

boring, sit on a stool, strum a guitar' things. I was determined for it to be a dynamic and entertaining show. So I put a lot of effort and energy to make it interesting.

There really is a roller coaster of emotion. It's a very interesting show, really. I think the audience really feels a sense of perspective. They can sense their life through the music."

([Greg Lake](http://www.examiner.com/topic/greg-lake) (<http://www.examiner.com/topic/greg-lake>) talks about touring with Ringo Starr and the All-Starr Band [on our Beatles Examiner page](http://www.examiner.com/article/greg-lake-ringo-starr-a-no-nonsense-guy-with-all-starr-band) (<http://www.examiner.com/article/greg-lake-ringo-starr-a-no-nonsense-guy-with-all-starr-band>).

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