

# RICK WAKEMAN

THE ULTIMATE EXPERIENCE

LIVE IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

OFFICIAL  
PROGRAMME



## THE RICK WAKEMAN ULTIMATE EXPERIENCE

"The Rick Wakeman Ultimate Experience" Rick's personal selection of highlights from his three most famous albums: "The Myths & Legends of King Arthur", "The Journey to the Centre of the Earth", and "The Six Wives of Henry VIII" - this astonishing 2 hour programme will also include other surprises from Rick's musical array. Rick will be taking his audience on a seamless journey through the albums that established him as an individual artist and global icon of progressive rock music.

He is bringing together a full orchestra, rock band and choir to bring to life an unforgettable and unique music experience for Wakeman and rock fans.

Supporting Rick on stage will be around 90 musicians comprising the acclaimed English Rock Ensemble, the Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra conducted by Guy Protheroe, and the Choir of Worcester Cathedral.



## BLACKFRIARS

The Gloucester Black Friars was founded in 1239 on a site that had once been part of the bailey of the Norman castle. King Henry III became a major benefactor of the friary, granting timber for the roofs, not only from the nearby Forest of Dean but also from royal forests in Shropshire and Dorset.

In accordance with their role as teachers, the friars at Gloucester had the distinction of establishing a library, which is the oldest surviving in Britain today. The friary prospered through the next two centuries despite a series of scandals relating to the indiscipline of the brethren. The house was in decline by the early sixteenth century with the former complement of between thirty and forty friars reduced to a prior and six brethren living in extreme poverty at the time of the Dissolution.

In 1539 Sir Thomas Bell, a wealthy Gloucester capper and clothier, purchased the property for £240.5s.4d. and set about remodelling the church into a private dwelling house with other buildings being converted into a cloth manufactory providing employment for over 300 townspeople. The great hall was leased to an independent church in 1780 and, by the early nineteenth century, a private school had been established here.

By the 1930s, Bell's mansion had been divided into two separate houses and other tenants of the site included a printing firm and a mineral water manufacturer. The building is recognised as the finest surviving example of a Dominican Friary in Britain.

*Edited extract from 'Historic Gloucester' by Phil Moss.  
This book is available to purchase from  
Gloucester Tourist Information Centre and local book shops.*



## **THE BLACKFRIARS SHOWS**

Wakeman with Wakeman with Wakeman and Wakeman admittedly does sound like a firm of solicitors but that can't be helped as there's nothing else we can call it really !

The roots of these two performances go back 20 years to 1993 when Rick and his second eldest son Adam toured as Wakeman with Wakeman as a four piece line up. They also released an album by the same name.

These performances paved the way for Adam to become a solo performer in his own right and working for nigh name artists who were able to pay him considerably more than his father could !

Oliver , (Rick's eldest son) , has also worked with his dad at both the Marlborough Xmas events , (that ran annually up until a few years ago) , and also recently at The Granary in Norfolk , where they performed together on two grand pianos .

Jemma , (Rick's eldest daughter) , has sung on Rick's Amazing Grace DVD and also on Retro II , a CD released by President Records and performed with her dad at Norwich cathedral as well as one of the Marlborough Xmas bashes.

When Blackfriars was offered as an additional venue to the weekend , it seemed ideal to put together something rather special that , as well as being very interesting musically , could also be a lot of fun and to this extent Rick contacted the above three of his offspring and asked if they fancied joining him on stage for these two shows.

They all readily agreed but with provisos , the main one being that they would also have access to microphones so that they could speak as well as their dad , and the second proviso being that their dad would not interrupt them !

Their father tried to negotiate on these two points , but eventually admitted failure , so even he is now unaware of what they are likely to say about him on the night !

It was agreed that each would have a pair of keyboards , (plus the agreed microphones) , and Adam would also play guitar as well as keyboards . Adam and Jemma would also take care of any vocals . (There was a third proviso which should be mentioned which was that their father would not attempt to sing) .

It was also decided that the majority of the music performed would be totally different to that of The Centaur which opened the door for pieces that had not been performed for many years , or indeed never at all , to be brought into the fold .

Each of the "kids" will highlight some of their own music and there will be mixtures of duo performances , trio performances and of course , all four playing together.

A total one-off event in so many areas that encompass musicality from 4 very talented musicians and stories from his children that Rick will vehemently deny are untrue .

We suggest you make up your own minds !!!





Photo: Lee Wilkinson © 2013 www.worshipmedia.co.uk



Photo: Lee Wilkinson © 2013 www.worshipmedia.co.uk



**RICK WAKEMAN**  
in Gloucestershire

## **THE CENTAUR SHOWS**

The origin of these two performances goes back 5 years to 2008 when Rick was asked if he'd like to perform with a symphony orchestra in Bulgaria.

Never one to shy away from such an offer, Rick readily agreed and offered "Return to the Centre of the Earth" which was basically all that had survived at that time of the music (Rick had played with orchestras, [to put the record straight, 6 Wives had yet to be orchestrated, that came a year later in 2009 and the original Journey to the Centre of the Earth score had yet to be discovered. The score for 1984 is "somewhere" but yet to be found and score for The Myths and Legends of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table, is still missing]).

The Bulgarian promoters replied that sadly they did not have the budget for a full on band + orchestra and choir and could not cover the expense of shipping a lot of equipment and asked if it were possible for Rick to come and perform solo on the piano with them.

Rick politely replied that he didn't have any scores of his music for piano and orchestra and their reply was ...."Why not" ?

Never one to shirk a challenge, Rick contacted his great friend Guy Protheroe, orchestrator, conductor and leader of the English Chamber Choir and work began immediately on scoring, specifically for piano, orchestra and choir, some of Rick's best known music.

In total, about 95 minutes worth of music was prepared including arrangements of much of Journey to the Centre of the Earth, The Myths and Legends of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table, Catherine Howard, Gone But Not Forgotten, The Jig, After the Ball, Help, Eleanor Rigby and Merlin the Magician.

The concert in Bulgaria was a tremendous success as well as critically acclaimed and, as word spread, over the course of the next few years the P & O, [as it became known], had performances all over the world including shows in Italy, Chile, Argentina, Poland as well as a one off performance in London.

When the opportunity arose to perform with the Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra and the Worcester Cathedral Chamber Choir at The Centaur in Cheltenham, Rick decided that he wanted to make these performances unique and so set about working on a way to include his band, The English Rock Ensemble, as part of the one-off shows.

After discussion with Guy Protheroe as regards the alterations needed to the original P & O scores so as to incorporate the band, it was also decided to add three more pieces to the performances and the three chosen were Jane Seymour, Starship Trooper (The Wurm) and Dance of 1000 Lights.

These performances are unlikely ever to happen again in the UK and so as well as it being a one-off for all to witness who are sitting in the audience, everybody taking part are also looking forward immensely to the 16th and 17th of June and there will certainly be a tinge of sadness as the final chord fades away on the evening of the 17th.



## ADAM WAKEMAN

Born March 11th 1974 into a musical family, Adam started playing classical piano at the age of 8. By 17, he had obtained grade 8 from the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music and had recorded the first, of what was to become 8 albums with father Rick Wakeman.

Much of the early touring history was with his father Rick and encompassed the UK, Europe, Russia, South America, the US, and Canada varying from the two of them sitting at grand pianos to full scale rock performances with orchestra & choir.

At 24 years of age, Adam won the "Best New Talent" award in America's 'Keyboard' magazine, which saw the beginning of his involvement on the London session scene.

As a highly sought after keyboard player & musical director, his career has seen him tour, write and record with some of the biggest selling artists in the recording industry.

Ozzy Osbourne, Black Sabbath, Will Young, Annie Lennox, Slash & Friends, Travis, James Morrison, 10CC, Gareth Gates, Victoria Beckham, Atomic Kitten, Tony Hadley, The Strawbs, Gene, A Company Of Snakes, Gintare, Robbie Williams, Artful Dodger, Lisa Stansfield

Currently, he is in his 10th year as member of Ozzy Osbourne's band on keyboards and guitar also having co-written 6 tracks on the 2010 platinum selling Grammy nominated album "SCREAM".

Adam is currently on the Black Sabbath world tour which runs until the beginning of 2014.

Photo: Lee Wilkinson © 2011 [www.wakeman@nord.com](mailto:www.wakeman@nord.com)

**RICK WAKEMAN**  
in Gloucestershire



## DAVE COLQUHOUN...COONEY



Born Whitehaven in Cumbria 1969.  
Guitar Player with Rick for the past 11 years on  
many live and studio events.

Appearing on the Made in Cuba DVD,  
Hampton Court DVD and Journey to the Centre of  
the Earth Studio Album.

Dave has also played with other artists  
as diverse as:

Bow Wow Wow, Bucks Fizz, Bananarama, Belinda  
Carlisle, Billy Ray Martin, Brian Higgins

And some other artists not beginning with B  
Francis Dunnery, Go West, Paul Young, Katie  
Tunstall, Ian Brown (almost a B) and Ozzy.



## **TONY FERNANDEZ**

Born in London..... a very, very, very,  
long time ago - (in the same year as Rick!)

Started playing drums.....  
a very, very, long time ago.

Began working with Rick... a very long time ago.

More recent years have seen me diversify and split  
my time between the UK and The Algarve.....  
which is a wonderful place to be!

Still very much enjoy the opportunity to venture  
out with Rick and the ERE (and the occasional  
orchestra) to do a few concerts here and there,  
and also to do the odd gig or two with  
Ruthless Blues.

Long may it continue!

Photo Lee Wilkison © 2013 [www.willibred.co.uk](http://www.willibred.co.uk)

**RICK WAKEMAN**  
in Gloucestershire

**RICK WAKEMAN**



Photo: Lee Wilkinson © 2013 www.wmsultimedia.co.uk

**RICK WAKEMAN**  
*in Gloucestershire*



## **ASHLEY HOLT**

Born 13th Feb 1946 in Amersham, Buckinghamshire First became interest in music through being head choir boy but it was when he heard a local rock 'n'roll singer Roy Powell through the window of a local bar that he became hooked. He asked his Dad for a guitar for Christmas and he formed a band, The Delmars, with school friends playing rhythm guitar and won several awards including The Evening News "Best New Band" contest.

He joined Ronnie Smith's Big Band on the Top Rank circuit as lead singer. It was here that a 17 year old lanky, long haired, blond kid came for an audition as a piano player. Ashley persuaded the band leader to give the kid a chance and Rick Wakeman became the newest Top Rank musician. Their friendship was cemented on a mutual love of music and it was when Rick left Yes to forge a solo career that Ashley was the first person to be called up for Journey to the Centre of the Earth.

World tours followed and the next concept album, King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table, saw Ashley once again at the forefront of prog rock. No Earthly Connection was written with Ashley's vocals in mind with tracks such as The Realisation and The Spaceman really showcasing his amazing vocal range and ability.

40 years have passed since Rick and Ashley first worked together and they still share that friendship and that love of music.



## LEE POMEROY

Lee has been holding the low end with Rick and the ERE since July 2000. He joined via a recommendation from Adam Wakeman and his first show with Rick was at a festival in Glastonbury followed by a tour of South America. Lee also plays for a few other prog rock heroes such as Steve Hackett, It Bites, Three Friends [playing the music of Gentle Giant with ex-Giant members Gary Green and Malcolm Mortimore] and is a member of the progressive rock band Headspace with Adam Wakeman.

In other words Lee loves prog!

He occasionally crops up playing bass for Take That too. His favourite colour is corduroy and he loves tea and biscuits.

Photo: Lee Wilkinson © 2013 www.ericthefish.com.co.uk



## OLIVER WAKEMAN

Oliver Wakeman is an award winning keyboardist and composer.

1997 saw the release of Oliver's first solo album "Heaven's Isle". His second album 'Jabberwocky' (a collaboration with Clive Nolan) was released in 1999 and featured an all star cast, including the late Peter Banks (Yes), Tony Fernandez (Strawbs), Rick Wakeman, Tracy Hitchings (Landmarq) & Bob Catley (Magnum).

Oliver's third album, "The 3 Ages of Magick" (2001), an instrumental work, was recorded with Steve Howe (Yes, Asia), who contributed guitars and executive production duties.

Oliver and Clive followed up the 'Jabberwocky' album in 2002 with "The Hound of the Baskervilles". The album featured a similar cast plus Arjen Lucassen (Aryeon), Ashley Holt (Rick Wakeman Band), Karl Groom (Threshold) as well as Robert Powell, the world renowned actor, narrating as Dr Watson.

A new age album, "Chakras", was released in early 2002 and a further commissioned work 'Spiritual

Enlightenment' was released in early 2003. His album 'Purification by Sound' was released by President Records in May 2003

2004 saw an appearance on Ayreon's "The Human Equation" album as well as appearing on the 'ProgAID' charity single (alongside Neal Morse, Arjen Lucassen and others), which raised funds for the Asian Tsunami disaster relief fund, he also appeared on Steve Howe's CD 'Spectrum' (2005).

During 2006 Oliver took to the road with his new band performing songs from his 'Mother's Ruin' album (2005) as well as songs from his back catalogue. He also appeared as a member of Bob Catley's touring band in the UK and Europe.

A live full band DVD and CD, 'Coming to Town', was recorded in Poland and released in 2008.

2008 saw Oliver join Chris Squire, Steve Howe and Alan White for the 'In the Present' world tour. At the beginning of 2009 Oliver was announced as the keyboard player for the Strawbs tours of Canada, Europe and the UK. He also performed as a member of the band on the 2009 release, 'Dancing to the Devil's Beat' for which Oliver co-wrote a track with Dave Cousins.

With the Howe/Squire/White line up now called YES, Oliver embarked on tours throughout 2009, 2010 and into the first half of 2011, performing over 150 shows as a member of the band. In 2010 Oliver appeared on the Strawbs 40th anniversary live double CD, 'Strawberry Fayre'.

In 2011 Oliver was credited as a performer and writer on the Yes studio release 'Fly From Here'. He also appears on the latest Yes CD and DVD release 'In the Present - Live from Lyon' handling all the keyboard duties. Oliver also appears in the documentary film which accompanies this release.

Oliver has been nominated for the Classic Rock Society's 'Best Keyboard Player' award on many occasions and in 2006 he won, 2007 saw Oliver win the award for a second time and in 2008 he was fortunate to win the award for the third year in a row.

His latest project 'Ravens & Lullabies', a collaboration with 70's guitar legend, Gordon Giltrap was released in March 2013 to critical acclaim.





## JEMMA WAKEMAN

Jemma has been performing both as a solo artist and with bands since the "noughties" began and this was only temporarily halted when her daughter Melody popped into the world a couple of years ago. [Rick's seventh grandchild]!

A very talented piano player and singer, Jemma has produced numerous recordings, many of which can be heard on her Facebook site.

She has a unique composing style, as indeed all of Rick's kids have, and has sung on tracks for numerous other artists over the years...including her dad of course!





Conductor: Dave Curtis



**THE CHELTENHAM SYMPHONY Ochestra**



Worcester Cathedral Chamber Choir comprises about 30 singers all working to a high standard of musical excellence. As a part of the historic community of Worcester Cathedral, the choir has gained a reputation for musical sensitivity and ground-breaking performance.

It was founded in 1998 by its musical director Stephen Shellard in order to draw together a group of high quality singers from the area to develop a concert repertoire and further enrich the cathedral's choral tradition. Its creation also made history as, for the first time since its foundation nearly 1,000 years ago, the cathedral included women's voices as a part of its musical life.

As might be expected much of the repertoire is drawn from the traditional Anglican Church Music heritage and includes Bach's 'St John Passion', Handel's 'Messiah', Faure's 'Requiem' and Vivaldi's 'Gloria'. The choir has been busy in the recording studio with 'Sing, Choirs of Angels', 'Jerusalem', 'A Worcester Evensong', 'Hodie: Music from Advent to Christmas Day' and 'Rise Heart' (music by Elgar, Parry, Stanford and Vaughan Williams), all being very well received in the UK and abroad and broadcast on local and national radio.

Most recently the choir completed a new recording of music by Australian composer Paul Paviour due to be released near Christmas, and carried out a highly successful visit to Dublin. It was also acclaimed for its performances as part of last Christmas and Easter's Gloucester and Worcester Cathedrals' Mystery Plays.



*Musical Director: Stephen Shellard*

## THE WORCESTER CATHEDRAL CHAMBER CHOIR



## GUY PROTHEROE

Guy Protheroe began his musical education as a chorister at Canterbury Cathedral, and continued with a music scholarship to Magdalen College, Oxford. He became conductor and musical director of the English Chamber Choir soon after its formation in 1972. On leaving Oxford he also founded the contemporary music ensemble Spectrum, which toured extensively in the UK, Europe and the USA. Its staged performances of Xenakis' *Oresteia* opened the Linbury Studio Theatre at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

Guy has conducted many of the UK's leading orchestras and choruses and has worked with many well-known popular artists on film, television and album projects. He also recently appeared as guest conductor with the vocal group Cappella Romana, based in Portland, Oregon.

He has collaborated for many years with the French new age artist Eric Levi on the ERA album series (which has sold over 12 million albums worldwide) not only directing the chorus but also featuring as a singer and arranger.

Guy's association with Rick began in 1973, when Rick was playing keyboards the Guy directing the chorus in the stage shows of 'Tommy' at the Rainbow Theatre in Finsbury Park. He directed the Choir for the original performances and recording of *Journey* and *King Arthur* and has worked as Rick's musical director for the subsequent 39 years!





## ANNE MANLY

Ann Manly also met Rick in 1973, singing in the chorus for the performances of Tommy. She had met Guy Protheroe while studying music at Oxford University and they married in 1974; since then they have worked together on numerous projects ranging from live performances and recordings to festival promotions, arranging and orchestration projects, doing up houses and bringing up children.

She has also worked extensively as a singer, in both the commercial and classical music worlds, as a music journalist and as a choral and orchestral manager, including being general manager of the English Chamber Choir.

She has travelled extensively with 'team Wakeman' in recent years, where she has successfully combined the roles of musical adviser and RW's personal shopper!

Photo: Lee Wilkinson © 2013 [www.wakemansite.co.uk](http://www.wakemansite.co.uk)

## THE TECHNICAL CREW

|               |                           |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| IAN BARFOOT   | Sound Engineer            |
| ERIK JORDAN   | Keyboard Technician       |
| MALCOLM WELCH | Merchandise               |
| BEN WAKEMAN   | Merchandise               |
| PAUL OUZMAN   | Stage Technician          |
| DAVE GREGORY  | Monitor Engineer          |
| WILL          | Assistant to Dave Gregory |
| LEE WILKINSON | Official Photographer     |



## PHIL McCORMICK



Firstly my thanks to all of you who are here tonight. I hope you have a great evening. If I had known the twists and turns that this event would take over the past eighteen months at the outset, I may never have started. Once in, the end result could only be achieved with the immense help, commitment and support of all involved.

Obviously none of this would be possible without Rick and his support of the original concept and charitable cause. I haven't exactly given him an easy ride; he and Tom Deen have my thanks and extreme gratitude for being so understanding, and supportive in helping to find away to deliver these unique concerts.

This was always a community project and I am personally delighted that we were able to include so many local musicians The Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra, Conductor David Curtis and the Worcester Cathedral Chamber Choir, Musical Director Stephen Shellard, have put in all the work to get their respective parts ready for tonight's performance but do not get the opportunity or accolade to actually conduct on the night. Guy takes control of the whole ensemble. My personal thanks therefore and acknowledgment to David and Stephen for their part in creating this concert .

It has been a steep learning curve and has required the support of all who have been involved. My thanks to the Centaur team who have been outstanding in helping us create this evening. To Eddie and Vander Eldridge at Softdata for the hours put in on Box Office, and to Martin McDonald of Big On Results Marketing who's knowledge and professionalism and personal support has been key to the delivery of this unique occasion.

Sit back and enjoy the Rick Wakeman Ultimate Experience.



With special thanks to  
Nick's Timber.

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**RICK WAKEMAN**  
in Gloucestershire







# **RICK WAKEMAN** *in Gloucestershire*

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