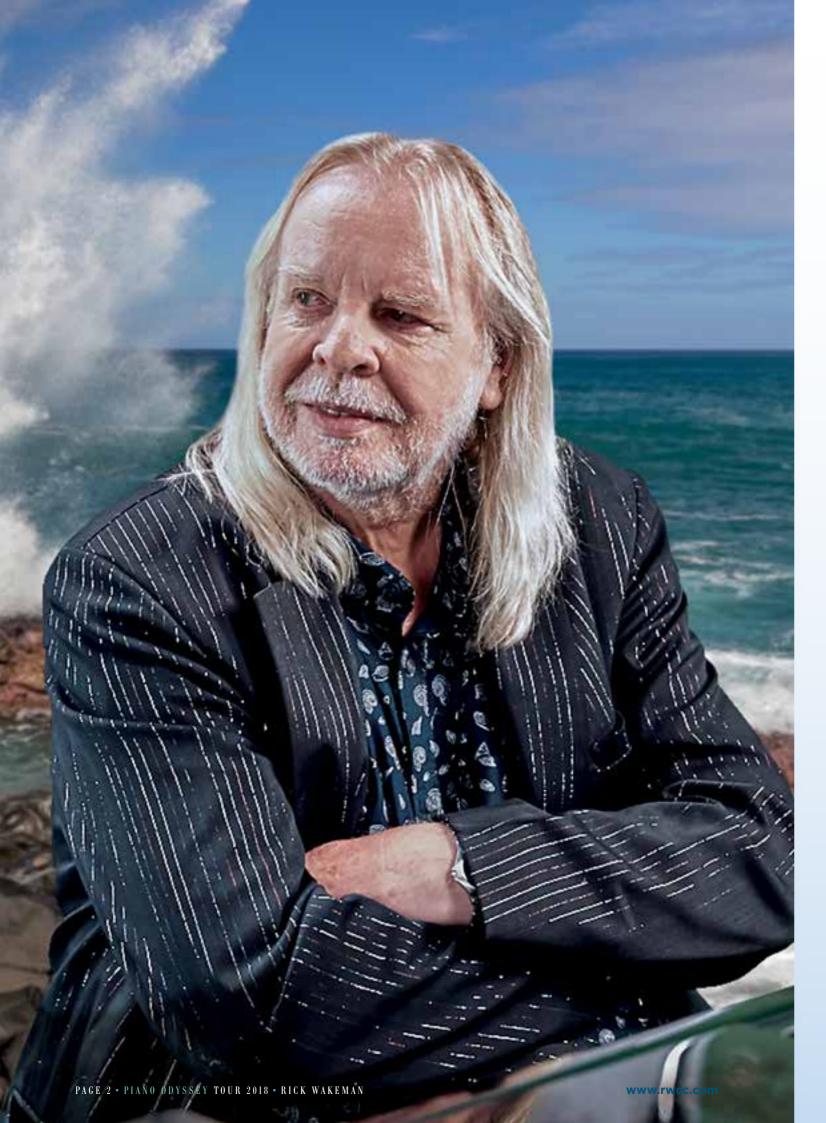
RICK WAKEMAN PIANO ODYSSEY TOUR 2018

Programme







THE PIANO ODYSSEY TOUR

onight's concert will be a sort of musical journey through much of Rick's life and will include music taken from the last fifty years of Rick's musical life. Similarly, most of the slightly embellished true stories, (and... in some cases... watered down) will also be taken from Rick's rather colourful life as a composer, performer, author and raconteur.

The new **PIANO ODYSSEY** album, which is set for release during the tour, will be featured in the show along with music from albums such as **KING ARTHUR**, **PIANO PORTRAITS**, **THE SIX WIVES OF HENRY VIII** and music from other artists that he collaborated with, and including the odd piece of Yes music as well!

SOME WORDS FROM RICK...

"Where you have melody, you have freedom. A freedom to create musical variations that will present the initial composition in such a different way without being detrimental to that of the original.

Composers have been creating such music for years and it makes little difference if the original music was written in the 16th Century, or the 21st Century. There is just one simple rule. If the melody is strong, then it will be inspiring to work with.

The music on this album covers nearly five centuries and includes a varied mixture including some music that I was part of from the beginning such as *Jane Seymour* which was originally recorded on the church organ in 1973. What made it such a strong contender for **PIANO ODYSSEY** is that

even though it was performed on the church organ, it was initially composed entirely on the piano and so this shorter version shows all the elements came together when it was first written and before this piano piece was adapted for church organ.

Amongst music from the classical world I chose *Liebstraum* by Franz Listz as this was a piece that I used in the score for the *Listzomania* film in 1976 and this beautiful piece played a major part in influencing me when I wrote a piece in the same year for the film *White Rock*. On **PIANO ODYSSEY** I have combined these two pieces to show how one was born from the other.

I have also included two pieces that I was involved with from the band Yes... And You and I and Roundabout. The former has very strong thematic and melody lines and was an ideal candidate for a piano treatment and the shortened version of Roundabout displays the different layers that the original contained with a clarity that perhaps a band cannot show.

There are two completely new pieces. Rocky (The Legacy), and Cyril Wolverine. These pieces are very close to my heart.

I am a patron of Animals Asia who do incredible work in saving Moon Bears from the unbelievable cruelty they suffer and giving them the lives they deserve in a beautiful sanctuary in Chengdu in China.

Rocky was one such bear saved after a decade of torture, but sadly she had been treated appallingly by her bile farm captors

Continues over...





and in spite of much loving care and medical help from the Animals Asia team, she died in 2017. Her legacy for us to fight to save all her fellow suffering Moon Bears will live forever and if anyone deserved a piece of music in her memory, then she did.

Probably the most emotional piece of music I have ever written is that of **CYRIL WOLVERINE**. Cyril was my adopted bear who, like Rocky, had injuries that eventually took his life much to the sadness and despair to all who knew him.

The day after we lost Cyril, I placed his photo on the music stand of my Blüthner piano, and with a single light gently illuminating both his face and the tears on mine, I wrote this piece for him.

DAVID BOWIE has been such an influence on my life and I have included *The Wild Eyed Boy From Freecloud* that I had the honour of playing and which is a wonderfully moving piece that Tony Visconti added orchestration to back in 1969.

I had wanted to do piano variations on Bohemian Rhapsody for many years as it is such an outstanding piece of music, or should I say, work of art. There is so much to this piece that it was difficult to know

where to start but
I looked at it as a
wonderful musical
jigsaw and watching the
picture take shape was so
rewarding, but the icing
on the cake came
for me when my dear
friend **BRIAN MAY** gave
the recording his seal of
approval and so generously
played some stunningly
beautiful acoustic guitar on
the track for me.

All the pieces have the Orion Strings and English Chamber Choir adding their unique contributions and I can't thank everybody enough who has been a part of this musical adventure and hope that in some way, the emotional journey can last forever."

MANY THANKS TO:

BRIAN LANE AND VALERIE POTTER:

United Stage International Ltd.

ALAN DAY AND STUART GALBRAITH:

Kilimanjaro

ROB AYLING AND SANDY HUSKISSON:

RRAW and Wakeman's Music Emporium

RACHEL WAKEMAN

SARAH THWAITES AND

KAREN PITCHFORD: Sony Masterwoks.

RICK ONLINE:

New YouTube channel:

rick-wakeman.lnk.to/youtube

Web: rwcc.com

Twitter: @GrumpyOldRick

Facebook: @RickWakemanMusic

Instagram: @RickWakemanMusic

Store: rickwakemansmusicemporium.com

Cyril, the Moon Bear





RICK'S MUSICAL ODYSSEY

ack in 1954, a five year old Richard Christopher Wakeman set off for his first piano lesson with Dorothy Symes, a highly renowned piano teacher in North West London. (Please note not to call Rick "Richard" as you are likely to be ignored. Only his late mother ever called him Richard and he intends to keep it that way)! His parents were far from wealthy and it later transpired that at least a third of the family's income went on piano lessons and music. Rick has always said that without the wonderful moral and financial support his parents gave him, he could not have achieved a tenth of what has happened to him in his life.

MRS SYMES TOOK HIM THROUGH ALL

eight grades with distinction plus all his eight theory grades. Theory classes were held on a Saturday morning and after the classes, Rick would be in charge of collecting the pencils and rubbers. He would put all the pencils back in the box but only half the rubbers. The other half were stuffed in his pocket and after the class he would sit on the bridge at Sudbury Hill and try and drop the rubbers down the funnels of passing steam engines as they pulled into the station.

Many years later Rick owned up to Mrs Symes, who told him she knew rubbers were vanishing at the rate of knots but had no idea where they ended up. Mrs Symes also used to hold regular concerts which introduced Rick to playing in front of audiences, which he took to like a duck takes to water. Encouraged by this enthusiasm Rick was

entered for numerous competitions at music festivals. He got into the habit of winning them, which started to make him a bit too sure of himself, presuming that he would win everything.

His father Cyril and Mrs Symes decided he needed taking down a peg or two and entered him for a competition in an age group three years older than he was, so as a 12 year old he found himself competing with 15 year olds. He came third, threw a tantrum and told everybody he hated them. His father sat him down and told him the musical facts of life. It worked and tantrums were no more and the bar of expectation set higher and Rick set his heart on gaining admission to the Royal College of Music.

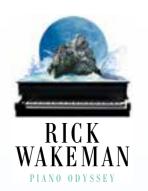
Parallel to his private piano lessons were the music lessons at school. At Wood End Junior school in Northolt, Miss Dennis took music and Rick loved her. She was vibrant and every kid enjoyed her music lessons twice a week with singing and talking about music

When Rick was 10, Miss Dennis decided to have a school concert. It was made up mainly of the usual stuff... seven-year-olds dressed as trees doing a short play let about the life cycle of a conker, finishing with the nine-year-olds playing conkers and the tree growing new buds etc. Bewildering when you are that age, but lots of fun.

I was neither a tree nor a conker player at the concert. Miss Dennis decided I should play a Clementi Sonatina. Mrs Symes thought

Continues over...





this was a good idea too. So he practised hard and memorised the sonatina.

It was around that time that Russ Conway, (who in later years became a good friend of Rick's), released the massive piano hit *Side Saddle*, which Rick had learned and played at home for fun.

Rick recalls that the concert did not set the audience of parents alight. He has vague memories of the trees having a fight and the conker bits going horribly wrong. All very confusing.

Miss Dennis then announced that Richard

Wakeman aged 10 would now play a Clementi Sonatina. He later claimed that he heard the groans from the audience from outside the school hall side door where he was waiting... true or not, it created the first signs of a rebel in the 10 year old as he walked in, sat at the piano and played *Side Saddle*. The audience loved it. There was obvious relief at not having to sit through a Clementi Sonatina and it was a definite step up from the horse chestnut debacle.

The performance went down a storm and Miss Dennis simply said... "Well, there's a surprise".

RICK SAID IT TAUGHT HIM FROM

THAT day onward that the people listening were as important as the performers, so he gives thanks to Miss Dennis, Russ Conway, the parents in the audience that day, and Clementi for being dead, as indeed most of that audience probably are now.

At age 11 Rick started at Drayton Manor County Grammar school in Hanwell, West London where the music master William Herrera, became a huge influence on him. He encouraged all sorts of music and Rick took up the clarinet as a second instrument, but piano was always his main love and with his cousin Alan, (now a renowned clarinetist and saxophonist in his own right), formed Brother Wakeman and the Clergymen, a traditional Jazz band with limited talent and indeed a limited line up - Piano, two trumpets and a clarinet. They played such standards as *Down by The Riverside* and *When the Saints Go Marching In.*

The Clergymen did two performances

at two school concerts.

The bewildering line up
led to bewildering musical
arrangements being played to an
equally bewildered audience.

By the age of 14, Rick was playing piano in local dance band trios and quartets and mixed in with his classical lessons at Mrs Symes meant there was little time for anything else although he did manage to get a few games of football in whenever possible.

He went on to join various bands, but it's his love of the piano that we are focusing on

here. After completing his eight grades and A level music he applied to the Royal College of Music and to his absolute delight, was offered a place and this was the start of where his life really started to change.

After gaining a place at the Royal College of Music, Rick continued with piano as his first study and clarinet as his second study. Crucially he added a third study which was orchestration with a wonderful professor

Continues over...

STUDY

AFTER





called Philip Cannon who introduced Rick to the book Principles of Orchestration by Rimsky-Korsakov which became Rick's Orchestration bible and has remained so to this very day.

It was also around this time that Rick started to do piano sessions for various artists and producers who seemed to like the classical style he was bringing to popular

Early sessions in 1968 were with The Strawbs, a folk band he was later to join in April 1970. Most of the Strawbs' sessions

were on piano and his classical style fitted extremely well with the strange but very musical tunings that Dave Cousins liked to use with his acoustic guitars. It was very much a musical match made in Heaven as can be heard on their 1970 album. **JUST A**

COLLECTION OF ANTIQUES AND CURIOS

It was very much through his Strawbs connection that Cat Stevens contacted him to play Morning Has Broken with him, **REALLY SUITED** his piano performances with Al Stewart on the **ORANGE** album, recordings with Magna Carta, Colin Scott and Ralph McTell and not to forget his iconic work with David Bowie.

ALTHOUGH VERY MUCH AN ELECTRIC

prog rock band, his many stints with Yes have always included piano work and two excellent examples would be the mid section of South Side of the Sky and the introduction to the Yes 'anthem' Awaken.

His solo work continued throughout the decades to feature the piano wherever possible and indeed by the 1980s Rick was 7 recording solo piano albums although the climate at the time was not really suited amongst punk and New Wave.

In the mid eighties and into the nineties, Rick started experimenting with piano concerts but it wasn't really until after 2005 that Rick found the piano route for performing that he had been searching for. He also produced a beautiful album with Jon Anderson, entitled THE LIVING TREE, which featured piano throughout. They toured the album together to critical acclaim, both in the UK and the USA.

> The Intimate Evening shows began getting more and more recognition where Rick's skills as a renowned raconteur came into play and by the start of 2010 he was selling out theatres wherever he went.

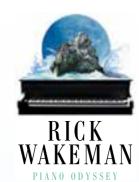
> He returned to his concept work for a few years with **JOURNEY TO THE CENTRE** OF THE EARTH and KING **ARTHUR**, but more and more requests kept coming in for more piano shows and so following the chart and critical success of **PIANO PORTRAITS**. musical nature was destined to take its

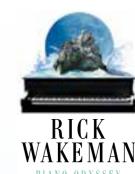
own course and the PIANO PORTRAITS tour was put together, initially in two sections for 2017, with more to follow around the world.

Rick was asked recently after a concert "What would you be doing if you weren't here playing the piano on stage"...apparently, without hesitating, he replied "Easy, I'd be at home playing the piano".

Says it all really.

BY THE 1980S RICK WAS RECORDING SOLO PIANO **ALBUMS** CLIMATE AT THE TIME WAS NOT







PIANO VIBRATIONS



COST OF LIVING



BLACK KNIGHTS.. SEA AIRS



SOFTSWORD



THE PIANO ALBUM



ORISONS



PRELUDES TO A CENTURY



TREASURE CHEST VOLUME 5



First released in 2007



THE SIX WIVES OF HENRY VIII







COUNTRY AIRS







THE WORD AND MUSIC





TREASURE CHEST VOLUME 6 TREASURE CHEST VOLUME 7



ALWAYS WITH YOU First released in 2010



JOURNEY TO THE CENTRE ...

CRIMES OF PASSION

NIGHT AIRS

THE CLASSICAL... 2

ROMANCE...

TRIBUTE

CHRISTMAS VARIATIONS



SILENT NIGHTS

THE MYTHS & LEGENDS.



PHANTOM POWER



WAKEMAN WITH WAKEMAN



THE SEVEN WONDERS



SIMPLY ACOUSTIC - THE MUSIC





TREASURE CHEST VOLUME 8



LISZTOMANIA



LIVE AT HAMMERSMITH





THE HERITAGE SUITE



RICK WAKEMAN IN CONCERT



FIELDS OF GREEN '97



35 MORNING HAS BROKEN







COUNTRY AIRS (ORIGINAL)





NO EXPENSE SPARED



VISIONS First released in 199



THEMES







THE LIVING TREE IN CONCERT First released in 2012



CRIMINAL RECORD



ASPIRANT SUNSET

UNLEASHING...

FIELDS OF GREEN

WHITE ROCK II

THE FAMILY ALBUM

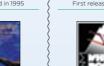


ASPIRANT SUNRISE





CIRQUE SURREAL



RETURN TO THE CENTRE



CLASSICAL VARIATIONS



THE WIZARD...



JOURNEY... 2012





TIME MACHINE



ASPIRANT SUNSHADOWS



WWW - OFFICIAL BOOTLEG







TREASURE CHEST VOLUME 1



OUT THERE



THE BURNING

TAPESTRIES

THE ART IN MUSIC TRILOGY

TREASURE CHEST VOLUME 2





1984

2000AD - INTO THE FUTURE

CAN YOU HEAR ME?

OFFICIAL LIVE BOOTLEG

TREASURE CHEST VOLUME 3



ALMOST LIVE IN EUROPE



VIGNETTES

ROCK N ROLL PROPHET

THE WORD... First released in 1988

AFRICAN BACH

NAMES WANTED

E -



STELLA BIANCA ALLA...



TREASURE CHEST VOLUME 4







First released in 2018











PRAYERS







IN THE NICK OF TIME



HUMMINGBIRD



THE MYTHS & LEGENDS 2016

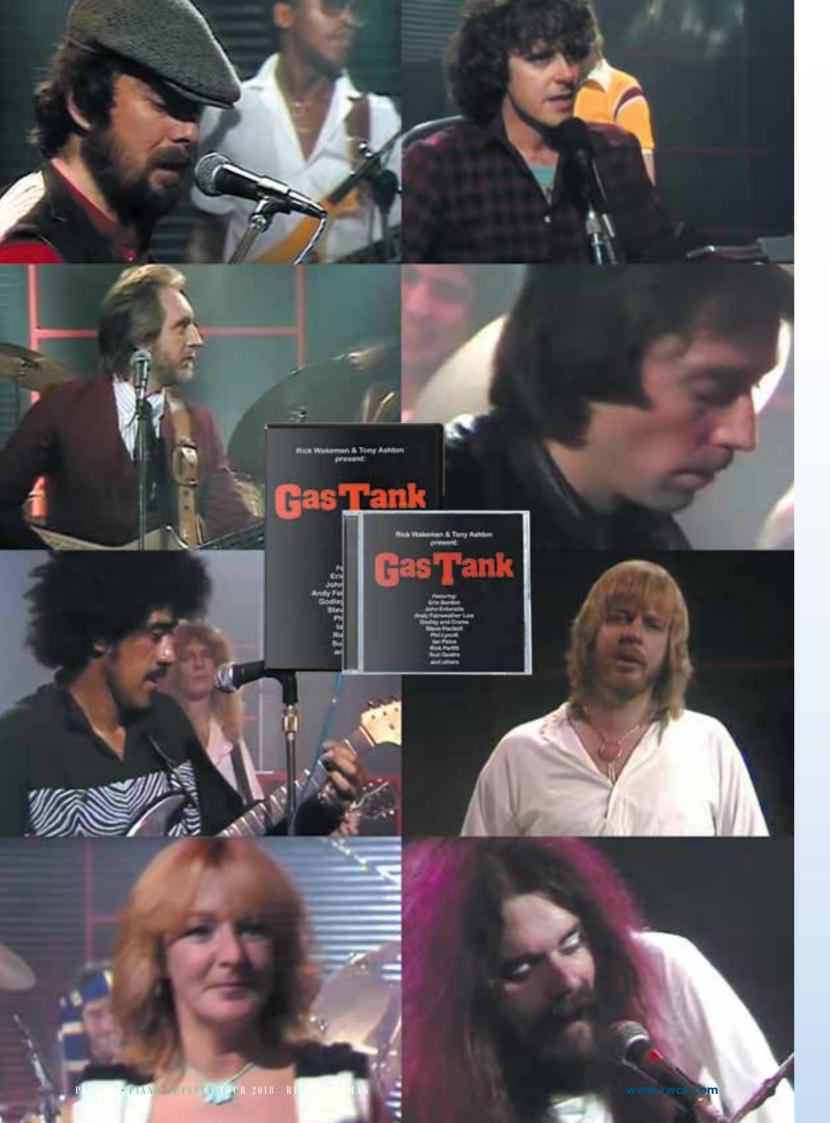
PIANO PORTRAITS



RETRO









REMEMBERING 'GASTANK'

he year is 1982. Popular music has gone through several tumultuous years, an understatement for artists of the time. Classic and progressive rock musicians are at that moment reimagining themselves, their sound, and their stagecraft, in light of new influences, and the tremendous impact of music videos via the juggernaut called MTV. Punk has come and mostly gone, but continues to influence a host of bands, all plying slightly different musical territory, be it goth, ska, "new wave" dance or one of any number of increasingly eclectic musical styles.

In the face of these events, Rick Wakeman and Tony Ashton established a new television show called *GasTank*. Produced by Paul Knight with associate Ralph Tobert, Directed by Gerry Mill and recorded at Ewart Studios with a stage and a small studio audience, the show aired in the UK on Channel 4 in 1982-1983. It featured Wakeman and Ashton chatting to a host of musical artists as diverse as **STEVE HACKETT** (Genesis), **IAN PAICE** (Deep Purple), **ANDY FAIRWEATHER LOW** (Roger Waters / Eric Clapton), **JOHN ENTWISTLE** (The Who), **ERIC BURDON** (The Animals), **SUZI QUATRO**, **GODLEY AND CREME** (10cc), but to name a few. Then joining these

musicians for a few live numbers.

The show was beloved by fans of rock and progressive music who had the chance to

see some well established rock 'n' roll heroes, along with a few overlooked artists of the era, playing classic and new songs live in an intimate setting.

As an example, GasTank #1 kicks off with

 $\overline{\zeta}$ a couple of pieces by Ashton and Wakeman, then features friends RICK PARFITT from Status Quo, reggae heroes THE CIMARONS, then legends ALVIN LEE and ERIC BURDON. Ashton brings a sense of humour, blues piano and gritty vocals to his featured songs. Wakeman is, well, the man and musician we've come to know over so many years in the business - funny, disarming even, and as always brilliant on the keys. The house band includes long time Wakeman drummer Tony Fernandez with Chas Cronk and Jerome Rimson on bass. The rest of the crew play their parts whether an original tune from their catalog, or a suitable cover, such as when Eric Burdon introduces a long time Elvis Presley favorite. It's intimate and thoroughly enjoyable for any fan or interested viewer.

Three cameramen, Richard Dellow, Andy Watt, and Mike Hand Bowman capture the action primarily from positions just in front of the small stage, or on it, affording us an upfront view of fingers, frets, and performances. The sound by Mike Erander and enduring quality of the footage itself is exceptional.

GasTank has, as far as we are aware, never been repeated or show in any markets outside of the UK. It was never available on home video in any format and was only recently released on DVD and was enthusiastically snapped up by fans world-wide.

The complete *Gas Tank* is now available from www.rickwakemansmusicemporium.com





PLEASE HELP THESE CHARITIES:

RICK IS A LONG-STANDING PATRON OF THESE ANIMAL CHARITIES. YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT WOULD ALSO BE GREATLY APPRECIATED

FELINE CARE



Our purpose

is set in three acres of rural and tranquil cat paradise! We offer all our cats a loving home with the hope of finding them their very own 'forever' home. At Feline Care we are not afraid to take on more difficult cases and pride ourselves on our therapeutic work with feral and nervous cats.

The main facility comprises large communal living areas and is uPVC doubleglazed with under floor heating. We also have a well equipped Intensive Care Unit for poorly cats and nervous cats who require special handling. Our Jellicle pens give feral cats a secure temporary home while recovering from their operations as part of our 'neuter and return' scheme.

As part of our dedication to the happiness of our residents we rely almost entirely on volunteers. This guarantees that every person working with the cats is here because they love them thus ensuring big purrs all round. We always have room for more volunteers so please get in touch if you have a spare morning to donate... cats can never have enough cuddles!

Please enjoy browsing our website and please let us know if you have any comments

www.felinecare.org.uk

FRIENDS OF THE ANIMALS



Was then the second floor flat of its

founder, Helen Sinclair. For twenty seven years we have been improving the lives of animals from Burnley to the Isle of Wight and from Norfolk to Wales. Our aims are to:

- Offer a subsidised Spaying and Neutering scheme ■ To rehome animals that come into our care ■ To support 460+ animals at a Sanctuary in the Midlands ■ To give educational talks on the care of pets ■ To offer support for members of the public in the care of their pets We have also: Spayed/Neutered more than 34,000 animals
- Rehomed over 8,800 animals And we provide veterinary treatment for almost 4,000 animals EVERY year.

www.friendsoftheanimals.co.uk

OLDHAM CATS



Oldham Cats is a UK registered charity dedicated to rescuing

and re-homing stray, abandoned and unwanted cats and kittens. We have been helping cats in and around the Oldham, Rochdale and Middleton areas of Greater Manchester, since 1995 and gained our charity registration in October of the following year. Since 1998 we have been based at our rescue in Middleton. We find homes for hundreds of

Continues over...



www.rwcc.com



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Limited edition signed and numbered box set MFGZ024CD

CD1 – The soundtrack DVD - The Burning, the movie

8 x replica lobby cards Replica Japanese press pack 6 x replica press pack photos A3 repro Japanese poster 10"×8" replica press photo



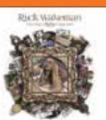
G'ole! - Motion picture soundtrack

Limited edition signed and

CD1 - G'ole! Soundtrack to the 1982 FIFA World Cup movie CD2 – Hero – Soundtrack to the 1986 FIFA World Cup movie + unreleased demo DVD - G'ole!, the movie

- A3 replica movie poster 10"×8" replica press photo A4 reproduction of the 20 page premier programme
- Numbered certificate signed by Rick Wakemar









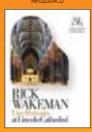
The original recording, with two new tracks



Live at the Winterland Theatre 1975 Live in San Francisco



Recorded live in August 1993 in Buenos Aires



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of the Opera Double CD + DVD



Guest vocalists include Ashley Holt, and Roy Wood



With Adam Wakeman Entirely instrumental



Can You Hear Me? Featuring The English



Double DVD set. Rick's classic 1982 music and chat show



With Brian May and The English Rock Ensemble, DVD



Crimes of Passion A wicked and erotic



The soundtrack, asoriginally intended. FeaturingRoger Daltrey



Double CD set. The expanded 2016 version



Beyond The Planets With Jeff Wayne and





RICK

homeless and abandoned cats and kittens every year, and we need your help to continue to do so. We are a non-profit, totally volunteer run organisation and rely entirely on the support of our loyal volunteers, fundraisers and supporters.

We often get asked why we put so much work into rescuing and looking after cats and the only answer is... because we care. Our dedicated team work seven days a week, 365 days a year ensuring the cats and kittens in our care are getting the best possible attention. Making a donation no matter how small will help provide much-needed funds towards food, medicines and veterinary care. www.oldhamcats.co.uk

ANIMALS ASIA



I was introduced to Animals Asia by Peter Egan back in

2011 and ever since then I've been in awe of the work Jill Robinson and her team do.

I can't think of a crueller form of animal abuse than bear bile farming. Moon bears are confined for years in tiny cages, offering no moment of respite from excruciating pain, where they eventually die. Since they were cubs, they will have had crude, agonizing catheters in their abdomens and been kept in a perpetual state of hunger and dehydration to maximise bile production. The 11,200 bile bears in China and Vietnam must yearn for death, but Animals Asia offers them hope and have rescued around 600 bears to date. The bears are crushed in body and spirit and for the lucky ones that are rescued by Animals Asia, it can be a long road to recovery. But Jill's team has some of the best and most specialised bear vets in the world who use their tremendous skills and compassion to give tireless support and love to the bears. Piece by piece, they

7 put the bears back together, physically and psychologically, and then provide safe sanctuary to them for the rest of their days.

I have always been proud to support the charity and it's been such a pleasure to be able to help. I performed a concert for them in May 2016 and was left gobsmacked afterwards when Jill stood up and told me that my wife and I. (Rachel is also involved with Animals Asia), were now proud adopted parents of a Moon Bear!

We named him Cyril and the Animals Asia team worked tirelessly to bring him back to health and slowly but surely he started to improve, even growing blonde hair which was unheard of for a moon bear.

Just as Rachel and I were preparing to travel to China to see Cyril, we received the devastating news that because of his initial appalling and brutal treatment, he now had terminal liver cancer and a few days later we lost our beloved bear.

Towards the end, Cyril sought comfort in fresh and dried banana leaves and hessian sacks. He constructed a gorgeous nest and would gladly accept as much substrate we could offer him. He stopped eating everything but pumpkin and all things sweet. He loved watermelon, sugar cane, condensed milk and pumpkin ice blocks. He would gladly accept the extra pieces of pumpkin that other bears refused. The team took such wonderful care of him until his end.

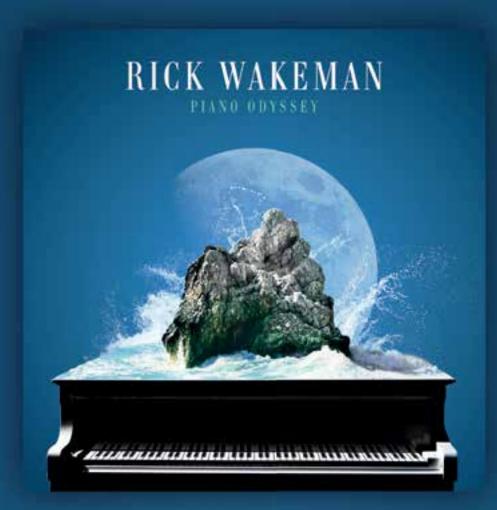
Cyril was buried by a small group of loving people from both Chengdu and Nanning. He was covered in a blanket of hessian sacks. dried banana leaves, pumpkin, condensed milk and watermelon. We planted a banana tree sapling there so he will have an endless supply of substrates to take with him. RIP Cyril.

www.animalsasia.org



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THE STUNNING NEW ALBUM FROM RICK WAKEMAN



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PIANO ARRANGEMENTS OF MUCH-LOVED FAVOURITES BY QUEEN, YES, LISZT, HANDEL AND DAVID BOWIE AS WELL AS REPERTOIRE FROM 'THE SIX WIVES OF HENRY VIII' AND NEW COMPOSITIONS

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