

Voyager

The MagellanMusic Newsletter

Fall 2022

Since we have been derelict in our duties and not provided any newsletters since 2019 we hereby give you permission to spank us with velvet paddles and whip us with licorice whips provided we also get marijuana spiked donuts and at least one hit of blotter acid to effectively kill the pain. As Elvis would say, "Thank ya! Thank ya vera much!"

It is a good thing we remembered to carry on with newsletters because as of 2021 it had been a decade since our last release, "Whispers". Many thought we were a non-existent band only carrying on to pitch our wares like a ghost from a living twilight, until one day when someone asked if they would hear anything new soon. We too thought that a good idea, so we scanned through our catalog and found numerous demos, outtakes, and unfinished songs well worthy for public listen. With sound quality enhancement and a good cover picture we released "Impressions" on November 1, 2021. We were a very happy group of guys considering we worked with songs we hadn't heard in too long, and equally happy that so many fans enjoyed it. We picked a wide set of genres to show new listeners what MagellanMusic is all about, and I don't think there's an album by anyone so varied as "Impressions". Here is a rundown of the songs:

I'm Flying – is a demo that was originally called "Suicide", but was such a gloomy word that it had to be changed. We learned that between 2000 and 2020 suicide increased 30% in America, which is one of the highest of first world countries, but still higher in many others. It was a social statement on our part, and a good, catchy rock song.

Foreign Man – is another good rock tune, and speaks of the changes from one generation to another. It's AAA singing lead on this one.

Nighttime On The Veldt – is a pseudo New Age instrumental. Amariah once had a fantasy of flying over the Veldt in Southern Africa during a full moon to observe the amazing sundry of wildlife in such a beautiful landscape. It's why we added the sound effects of numerous animals.

Encounter – is electronica with the science fiction theme of what it would be like for astronauts to encounter a completely alien spacecraft.

Without You – is a Country/Slow Rock song with the classic subject of love. We deliberately avoided the Country sound by not using any acoustic guitar or fiddle. AAA sings lead on this one also.

Thank You Girl – is a Beatles cover, a demo, and different than the original in being a littler slower. We also added additional guitars to give the ears a little more to listen to.

Only You – was originally done by the Platters in 1955, but we were impressed by Ringo Starr's version in 1974. Our version isn't much different other than it's a little more energetic.

How Many Times – is an acoustic song, a lament about a love that couldn't be, and quickly became a favorite of the album.

Mexico Ciudad – is our poke at humor. The Spanish is total gibberish, the words picked only for their sound, and nobody expected a mariachi from MagellanMusic. But they got one.

Wanna Funk – is exactly as its name. It's instrumental, a good dance tune, and features a blistering lead guitar by Jensen.

Quadrant Z-12 – nobody remembers where the name came from, but it's another instrumental, moves at a fast pace, and features the unusual combination of psychedelia with prog rock.

K2X3Z: Maggots On Acid – this too sounds like its name. Electronica in a swirling mass of sounds and voices that could be an aural trip into the outskirts of reality.

A Child To The Stars – this was a demo never expected to be released because of poor sound quality, but such an unusual song that it's hard to name a genre category. Acoustic prog rock is the best we can think of, and at almost 11 minutes in length with the story of an otherworldly entity it qualifies as an epic.

Despite the domination of online music sites that caused the drop in CD sales and downloads, it hasn't been bad for unknowns like MagellanMusic. With continued PR on social sites like Facebook and Twitter, listening has been so consistent that we make more money from listeners than selling CD's. Plus it saves money from unnecessary production, which is today limited to major names like the Beatles and Pink Floyd. For us it works.

Speaking of CD's, there have been notable releases in recent times and it's still going. A surprise was the announcement of the Beatles "Revolver". It has been remixed and remastered like "Sgt. Pepper", "The Beatles", "Abbey Road", and "Let It Be", is available in various forms, such as a boxed set, but we assumed remasters would be limited to Beatles most famed titles. Not only is "Revolver" worthy, but also suggests the early albums, such as "Please Please Me" and "With The Beatles", could eventually be included considering they were recorded in only 2-track stereo. Other re-releases of note were "Animals" and "Pulse" by Pink Floyd, "Road Trips" by Grateful Dead, "The Complete Reprise Studio Albums" by Eric Clapton, "The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust" by David Bowie, "The Asylum Albums" by Joni Mitchell, and "Fugazi" by Marillion.

As we get older we keep seeing news stories of famed musicians and singers who have died, which is a depressing reminder that we're getting old too, but also an inspiration to get CD's or download albums by them that we haven't heard in too long, which can be a rediscovery of how good they were. So far this year we have lost the following:

Loretta Lynn

Jerry Allison – drummer with Buddy Holly

Olivia Newton-John

Alec John Such – bass player with Bon Jovi

Alan White – drummer with Yes

Vangelis – keyboardist, composer and pioneer of New Age

Naomi Judd

Bobby Rydell

C.W. McCall – famed one-hit wonder with "Convoy"

Gary Brooker – centerpiece of Procul Harum

Meat Loaf

Ronnie Spector

In 2021 we lost:

Phil Spector

Chick Corea

B. J. Thomas
Charlie Watts – drummer with the Rolling Stones
Gerry Marsden – frontman of Liverpool's Gerry & the Pacemakers
Dusty Hill – bass player with ZZ Top
Don Everly – the second of the Everly Brothers. Phil died in 2014.
Graeme Edge – drummer with Moody Blues
Michael Nesmith – guitarist and singer with the Monkees
Ron Bushy – drummer with Iron Butterfly
Robby Steinhardt – violinist and singer with Kansas
Mick Bolton – keyboardist with Mott the Hoople
Mike Fonfara – keyboardist with Electric Flag and Lou Reed
Tim Bogert – bass player with Vanilla Fudge and Beck Bogert and Appice
Sylvain Sylvain – guitarist with the New York Dolls
Jimmie Rodgers
Hilton Valente – founding member of the Animals
Anne Feeney – folk singer/political activist
Rusty Young – Poco frontman
Paul Cotton – Poco guitarist
Mike Mitchell – guitarist for Kingsmen, famed for "Louie, Louie"
George Frayne a.k.a. Commander Cody

May they rest in peace.

Taking a look back at the glory years of Rock music during Autumn reveals a few surprises:

In October of 1964, Simon and Garfunkel debuted with the LP "Wednesday Morning, 3 A.M."

It was also in October '64 when the Rolling Stones finally got a spot on the extremely popular Ed Sullivan Show.

In November of 1965 Arlo Guthrie was arrested in Stockbridge, Massachusetts for littering, which led to the timeless song and film "Alice's Restaurant".

Also in November '69 the Lovin' Spoonful released their debut LP, "Do You Believe In Magic".

In October of 1966 "The Supremes A Go-Go" was the first #1 LP for an all-girl group.

In November 1966 the Beatles began sessions on what would later be called "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band".

In October 1967 the first issue of Rolling Stone magazine was published.

In early December 1967 George Harrison began recording sessions separate from the Beatles that went on to be his first solo album, the first album released on the coming Apple records label, and the first soundtrack album by any of the Beatles for the film "Wonderwall".

In October 1968 a surprise solo album by Mama Cass Elliot appeared called "Dream A Little Dream". Most didn't know it was a sign that the Mama's and the Papa's would soon breakup.

In November 1968, only days before the Beatles released the White Album, John and Yoko released "Unfinished Music No. 1: Two Virgins". It had to be covered in a brown sleeve because they were totally nude on the front and back covers.

In October 1969 Ralph Nader, a DJ and booking agent, put together the first Rock and Roll Revival concert, which featured Bill Haley, the Shirelles, the Platters, and others, that began the effort to make 'Oldies' a viable commercial genre.

Also in October '69 King Crimson released their debut LP, "In the Court of the Crimson King."

In November '69 the largest anti-war rally in history occurred in Washington D.C., and the accompanying concert featured Richie Havens, Arlo Guthrie, Peter Paul & Mary, Pete Seeger, and others.

In October 1970 Janis Joplin, while in LA working on her next album, accidentally OD'd on extremely strong heroin.

Also in October 1970 Genesis released their debut album, "Trespass".

In November 1970 Emerson, Lake & Palmer and Gentle Giant released their self-titled debut albums.

A quote to remember:

"Without deviation from the norm, progress is impossible."

- Frank Zappa

See you next time...

Per Jensen