



### Greg Lake, of ELP, to play in Ridgefield

Erik Ofgang  
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Greg Lake is best known as the bassist, guitarist, vocalist and lyricist of Emerson, Lake & Palmer and King Crimson. His iSongs Of A Lifetime tour will stop at The Ridgefield Playhouse on Saturday, April 21. Photo: Contributed Photo / CT

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For musician **Greg Lake**, there are certain songs that have helped to shape not only his career but his life.

Lake is best known as the bassist, guitarist, vocalist, lyricist and co-founder of the iconic progressive rock bands Emerson, Lake & Palmer and King Crimson. His "Songs Of A Lifetime" tour will stop at the [Ridgefield Playhouse](#) on Saturday, April 21.

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Lake said over the phone he had the idea for this tour after he wrote his autobiography, "Lucky Man," and realized there were certain songs that had a profound influence on him.

During the tour, Lake will take music lovers on an intimate autobiographical journey through these songs, not only playing them, but sharing the stories behind them.

Featured are many of the best-known songs from ELP and King Crimson. And though Lake will be telling stories some of the time, he promised the show will still rock.

"What it won't be is a guy sitting on a chair strumming folk songs; that isn't what it's going to



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be," he said.

Lake was friendly and thoughtful as he spoke about the importance of listening when you play music, and how he managed to compose what would later be a hit song when he was only 12.

Q: Could you talk about one of the songs that had an influence on your life that you'll be playing on this tour?

A: A song like "Lucky Man," for example, was very important and it was very strange, because I wrote it when I was 12 years old and yet it got recorded when I was 20. Even then, when we recorded it, no one had any idea that it was going to be any sort of hit record, and it has survived all these years and that's an amazing thing -- from a simple song that a child wrote, to a song that's become a classic. So that's a very important song to me.

Q: Can you talk about how that song came about, writing it at such a young age?

A: I wrote it shortly after my mother had bought a guitar for me and the first four chords I learned were G, D, A minor and E minor. I wrote the song using those four chords and I don't know, I just felt lucky that my mother had bought me a guitar.

It was one of those things where at the age of 12 or 13 you're starting to emerge from the chrysalis of youth and blossoming into being a freethinking adult, maybe that was the feeling of being lucky.

I had my life ahead of me, I had dreams of playing the guitar, maybe that was the inspiration for it. It's hard to say, it's really hard to say, but for some reason I remembered the song. I never even wrote it down on paper, I just remembered, but as I say it came to be recorded on ELP's first album.

Q: That's amazing.

A: It's a strange story but there's something very interesting. The fact is, it's very simple, it comes from the heart. It's a song written without any thought. I never intended it to be a record. I didn't even understand what making a record was when I wrote the song. So it was a very simple song, written from the heart, just for my own amusement.

Of course because it's simple and because it's easily understandable it's easy for someone to like it. It's easy for them to understand it and to feel what I felt when I wrote it.

Q: Can you talk about King Crimson?

A: One of the things about King Crimson that was really different and really important was that we were very aware of listening. In a way, it used to be listening was more important than playing really, because it's from listening that you pick up the influence, that you pick up the moment, that you pick up the energy, that you latch into the feeling. ...

If you're concentrating totally on what you're playing, you're not really in touch with the music; you have to play unconsciously and the focus needs to be on listening. So you need to be thinking about what you're hearing rather than what you're playing.

The Ridgefield Playhouse, 80 E. Ridge Ridgefield. Saturday, April 21, 8 p.m. \$75.  
203-438-5795, [www.ridgefieldplayhouse.org](http://www.ridgefieldplayhouse.org).

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