

By ERIC SCHELKOPF - eschelkopf@shawmedia.com

'Lucky Man' Greg Lake to perform at the Arcada

Greg Lake considers himself to be a lucky man. Lake, a founding member of the progressive rock band Emerson, Lake and Palmer, penned the band's hit "Lucky Man," which is also the name of his new autobiography.

Lake is bound to play the song Saturday when he performs at the Arcada Theatre, 105 E. Main St., St. Charles, as part of his "Songs Of A Lifetime" 2012 tour. The show will be in a storytelling format with a question-and-answer session.

Tickets range from \$19 to \$79 and are available by calling 630-962-7000 or going to www.oshows.com.

The Kane County Chronicle had the chance to talk to Lake about his career, which also included being a founding member of King Crimson.

Kane County Chronicle: I understand that audience members get to ask you questions at each show. Have you been surprised by any of the questions?

Greg Lake: The questions have been extremely varied. I get the general question of when ELP is going to get together again. Other than that, it is people's memories. I'm quite touched by the emotion that comes off the audience.

I wanted to do an intimate show where I could tell these stories and play these songs. It's more like a family gathering, really.

Speaking of ELP, do you see the band reuniting again?

To be honest, I would always be happy to do it.

ELP did reunite in the summer of 2010 at the High Voltage Festival. How was that experience?

It was very emotional and it was extremely nostalgic. I was saddened personally that we weren't able to continue on and tour.

ELP sold 30 million records in the 1970s. What made the band work?

There was a chemistry between the three members. It was a real flashpoint. There were so few of us, and we made such a big sound. But we also had varying dynamics.

What made you want to write an autobiography?

First of all, I'm getting old. I'm at the end of my career, not the beginning.

I really didn't want to write an autobiography, but my manager said I ought to write this stuff down. This is the record of something that touched a lot of lives.

Do you write about what it was like touring as part of ELP?

I've tried to avoid writing about the things that people obviously saw. What I tried to write about is what it was like behind the scenes.

Do you consider yourself a lucky man?

I think I do, to have lived the life I have.

It seems as though songs like "Lucky Man" and "Father Christmas" have stood the test of time. Do you agree?

That's not for me to say, that's for others to say. I may have written the songs, but the moment they are put on a record, they belong to the people who are listening to them.

It is the people who keep a song alive.

What music do you listen to these days?

There's nothing I am particularly focused on. Adele, I like her very much.

Do you have any advice for a budding musician?

Make music that you like and believe in. Don't make music for other people. Be your own judge and critic. Make music for yourself.

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