

# Greg Lake's biographical 'Songs of a Lifetime' concert two-time hit in Austin



5 PHOTOS

Slideshow: Greg Lake is touring the United States on his 'Songs of a Lifetime' tour

Sunday night, patrons of Austin's glorious One World Theatre had two opportunities to see, hear, and experience the exciting career of singer/songwriter Greg Lake, through his eyes, and participate in a rare treat of reflection, introspection, and some of the best classic rock memories in the business from a man ever as gracious, and humble, as one would hope for from a man of his caliber. Before the show, Lake said, "these all started out as my songs, but after a while, they really belong to the audience, who have their own interpretation of what each one means to them." One could only expect an evening of enthusiastic sharing between a man of music and his followers would ensue.

From the moment you exited off of Bee Caves Road down and wound downward in a spiral toward the parking level in the hills where the Tuscan villa is situated, you entered a time machine, driven by singer Lake, that opened with a spectacular show of revolving red spotlights, signaling the opening anthem "21st Century Schizoid Man." Your mind went back to the iconic "In the Court of the Crimson King" [album cover \(http://www.king-crimson.com/album/inthecourt\)](http://www.king-crimson.com/album/inthecourt) (the story behind which Lake shared a most poignant story about the artist, Barry Godber), and the crowd was prepped for the night as many nodded their heads forward and back again, in affirmation with every beat.

**View slideshow: Greg Lake is touring the United States on his 'Songs of a Lifetime' tour (<http://www.examiner.com/slideshow/greg-lake-is-touring-the-united-states-on-his-songs-of-a-lifetime-tour>)**



Video: Greg Lake - C'est La Vie (Live)

Rating for Greg Lake live concert 2012:



Related topics:

Greg Lake 2012 Songs of a Lifetime

What's also very appreciated was Lake's professional approach to the evening, far from the archetypal rock star. Donning a suit in the midst of Texas' 90°F late afternoon Spring temperatures was both characteristic of the respect in which Lake held the audience and the sole purpose of the

## Tour

### One World Theatre

#### austin live music

#### Emerson Lake & Palmer

#### King Crimson

#### Lucky Man

evening, shaping his career (so far) into the storyteller framework.

As he welcomed the 6 pm crowd, Lake noted, "I've been completing my biography, 'Lucky Man,' so I guess we should start "From the Beginning." Instant applause. At that point, Lake dazzled the audience with powerful vocals, dead-on guitar playing exactly the way the audience had heard the licks on the once-underground radio stations and on their stereos and in live concerts back in the day.

One almost always takes it for granted that every young U.S. rock star began their career influenced in some way by The Beatles, but meanwhile, across the pond, Lake shared that the entertainer who had most impacted him early on was, in fact, Elvis Presley.

As he recounted the experience afforded him to see Elvis live in concert at Lake Tahoe in a day-off from an Emerson Lake and Palmer tour, it was a reminder that the only thing separating the wanna-be rock star from the real ones is the ability to persevere beyond inspiration and learn from the best how to be the best and to work at your craft every day to reach the goal. Lake's version of "how I'm going to completely wreck 'Heartbreak Hotel' in performance" was well received.

Soaring, powerful vocals defined his versions of "Epitaph," and "Talk to the Wind" from the [King Crimson \(http://www.king-crimson.com/\)](http://www.king-crimson.com/) days. Gentle but expert guitar work framed "[Trilogy \(http://www.google.com/products/catalog?rlz=1C1CHFX\\_enUS443US444&q=emerson+lake+palmer+trilogy+album&um=1&ie=UTF-8&tbm=shop&cid=14707545185916718307&sa=X&ei=WPYqT\\_jrDcyTtwfztlmXDA&ved=0CGwQ8wIwAw\)](http://www.google.com/products/catalog?rlz=1C1CHFX_enUS443US444&q=emerson+lake+palmer+trilogy+album&um=1&ie=UTF-8&tbm=shop&cid=14707545185916718307&sa=X&ei=WPYqT_jrDcyTtwfztlmXDA&ved=0CGwQ8wIwAw)" and "Still You Turn Me On" from the Emerson Lake and Palmer Days. This being Texas, and audience members being as participatory as they are, more than one woman echoed their affirmation, "you still turn us on, Greg" when he was done. He smiled quietly and broadly in appreciation.

Lake did discuss The Beatles, of course, and how he'd purchased the 200+ songbook "The Best of the Beatles" in advance of his tour with [Ringo Starr's \(http://www.ringostarr.com/\)](http://www.ringostarr.com/) All Starr Band (in which every performer is noteworthy as a star) "in case Ringo wanted to do one of theirs." The audience needed no coaxing to join Lake in his invitation to sing the chorus to "You've Got to Hide Your Love Away" and then the Beatles' influence on every successful 60s rock musician category was accounted for and onto the next.

As a lad of 12, Lake wrote a poem inspired by castles, kings, mythology, and ethereal places. He shared the story of how that poem wound up as a last track and how there were a number of "firsts" defining the song's landing on the ELP album in the form it did. A case of sheer "serendipity

and spontaneity meet opportunity to make magic.”

Questions from the audience included, “Tell us about the Works Vol. 1 and 2” tour got fast-witted, brief answers, “It was a \$3,000,000 loss,” received with laughter. Other questions showed the breadth of knowledge (or lack thereof) of the audience members with respect to Lake’s entire discography, but all questions were answered and only time constraints for the start of the next show at 8:30 prohibited more.

The audience was so engaged that Lake promised that “if you go home and ask your questions of me on Facebook, tonight after the evening is over, I promise I’ll answer them.” With his sincere intent to share his history, and the audience eager to hear it, it’s no wonder that the 90-minute show flew by all too soon.

Lake has a collection of six platinum and five gold [albums \(http://www.artist-shop.com/manticore/\)](http://www.artist-shop.com/manticore/) that represent a singularly positive turning point in rock music. Standout solo instrumental breaks, powerful vocals displaying intense musicality, and an on-stage synergy with band mates, live in concert are but a few hallmarks of the Lake collective works. It’s enough to write a book about, and he’s done just that.

Before this show, it was easy to think you “knew” Greg Lake, or what he was all about, given this singer/songwriter’s best work. You’ve sung along to “21st Century Schizoid Man”; you’ve rocked your head and swayed your body in time to “Lucky Man”; or you’ve closed your eyes as “Moonchild” echoed hauntingly on the stereo. You’ve imagined a dimly lit Paris street lined with cafés as you’ve heard, “C’est la vie.” It’s even better to enjoy the music when you hear the origin of songs and hear the best vocals and guitar, along with by an intelligent, but not overpowering, backing track.

For those new to the [One World Theatre \(http://www.oneworldtheatre.org/home.html\)](http://www.oneworldtheatre.org/home.html), it operates as a nonprofit entity and represents a labor of love for founder Hartt Stearns, a UCLA graduate and accomplished musician himself, on a personal mission (together with his wife Nada) to bring diverse musical styles to the Bee Cave bungalow, slightly hidden away in Austin’s hills. The secret is out, though, and the theatre is now a destination venue for entertainers and audiences.

Greg Lake’s biography, “Lucky Man” is being released next week, beginning with the first of three volumes. It’s available on his web site, and the format is initially as an audio book. The hardbound complete book should be available by the end of the year. Forty years later, now is your chance to meet and share time with one of the most gracious and humble men, part of this stellar body of work from King Crimson and Emerson, Lake, and Palmer.

Although it is Lake who believes he is a "Lucky Man," it's also correct to say that those who have seen, and will see, his "Songs of a Lifetime" tour, are lucky as well.

His current tour dates are in the accompanying story. Don't miss seeing him if you're anywhere close by. Oh, and get the book. You'll be glad you did.



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