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Orchestra



Former members of ELO and ELO Pt 2

Introducing Glen Burtnik

Glen has joined the Guys of The Orchestra for the May Tour, stepping into the shoes of one of the beloved members of the band. A hard job, with which we all wish him the best – but who is he?

Who is Glen Burtnik?

A: I'm a working musician. Whatever it needs, I'd like to think I can supply it. I'm like a plumber with a guitar. I write I sing I play I miss my flights. Etc.

What are you most looking forward to when touring with the band?

A: Meeting new friends and visiting places I've never been to previously.

Have you toured the UK before, with which bands, any good or funny memories?

A: I've recorded in London, been a tourist in England, but never performed. For me, this is a big deal.

How do you think it might be different on this occasion?

A: I'll have shorter hair and wear trousers. No, actually, it will be my job, but I take it seriously.

Which songs have been most tricky, easy, enjoyable, to learn and play -why?

A: Turn To Stone, Last Train To London, Mr Bluer Skies and ANYTHING I will be singing lead vocal on.

Taking Kelly's place - what have you learned about Kelly and his abilities in learning his parts in the tracks etc.?

A: He was amazing. I had no idea, I'm sad to report. I've been listening to live recordings from Orchestra show with Kelly and I'm blown away. He was a brilliant musician. His bass playing was flawless and I adore his singing voice. Honest.

Lastly your greatest worry / fear?

A: I'll f@&k up the lyrics!



An Evening Without Kelly Groucutt

On 11th May 2009 Kelly Groucutt's family and friends gathered together for a very poignant; but also fun and colourful evening, reflecting Kelly's love of life! The evening was filled with music from family and friends. During the evening it was also a privileged to be invited by Kelly's children to a more intimate view of Kelly's life, for instance Chris Groucutt singing Don McLean's 'Vincent', a favourite lullaby Kelly would sing to his children

www.youtube.com/watch?v=dipFMJckZOM

Visit Jim Hoban's excellent website

<http://www.theelonetwork.com/>

to read a full review of the evening



Gordon Townsend I nheritance Tracks

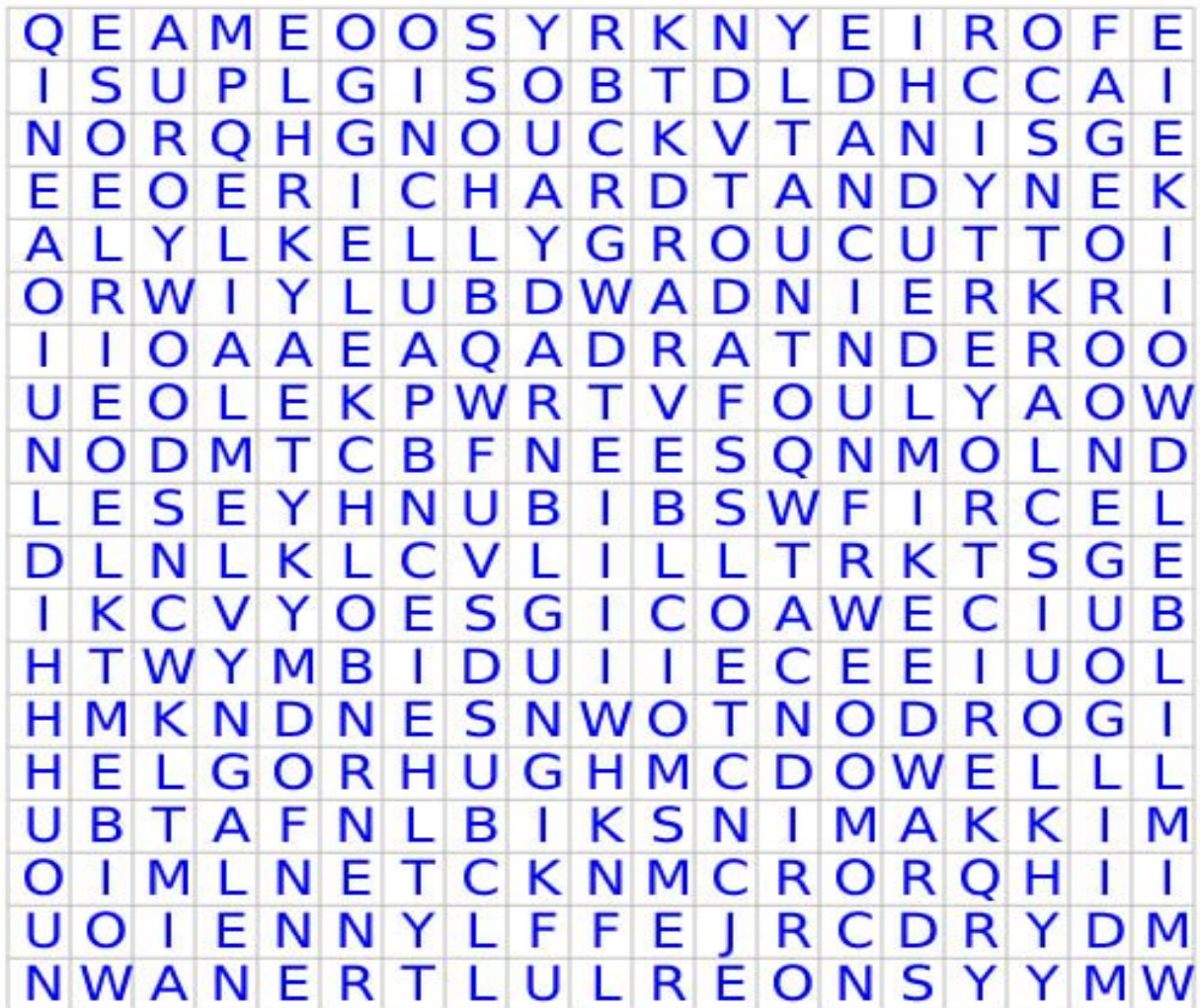
When asked to do this interview – it immediately made me panic. There are so many great pieces of music, how could I ever choose one? I take music very seriously. I grew-up on Wellesley Road in Philadelphia and have lots of very early music memories. The Road was very rich musically and hugely inspirational, always providing someone to play with and get along with. My mum is very musical and I got all my ability from her. When I was young she used to play the guitar really well, with great fingerpicking. She is also a brilliant singer and plays the piano, banjo and flute too. I also had friends who were really keen on music. Therefore I was in the 'music way' before I started playing drums.

My best friend Kurt Rosenwinkel lived opposite and although I already had access to a guitar and piano at home. When Kurt's mother went out and bought a drum kit, I had a go and I was away. Kurt would use my guitar and piano while I used his drum kit and it just stuck. I absolutely love drumming. I think the instrument chooses you really. As for Kurt, he is now hugely famous in his own right in the Jazz world as a soloist guitarist. He much better known in the music world than I am, he is a real genius. On my seventh birthday, I got my first album by Kiss. It was just the right time for me and the band are almost as sacred to me as the Beatles are, silly as it sounds they hugely influenced my development and my obsession. I have never got over their music to this day. The track that I treasure the most is 'Strutter' (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zp2ebg4XOXY>). Even now when I hear it, I remember being in my bedroom, strumming at a tennis racket, pretending to be a rock star like your average seven-year-old boy.

As for something for others to think of me when they hear it, it is so unfair, to have to just choose one. If pushed I would have to select a track by the Beatles, most likely from the Sergeant Pepper Album. Even though it is really hard I think I would chose 'She's Leaving Home' (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jkJciEf-ENA>). It has wonderful chord progressions that just make my skin crawl. It hardly has any drums, but it is about the tune, the harmonies and the sound of the phrases. I don't like drumming solos or particularly flashy drummers, and my passion is way more about music than it is about drums. I just love music, harmony, melody, chord progressions and chord qualities way more than I do a tricky drum thing, that is what is really important!



ELO and The Orchestra – Members Past and Present
WORDSEARCH



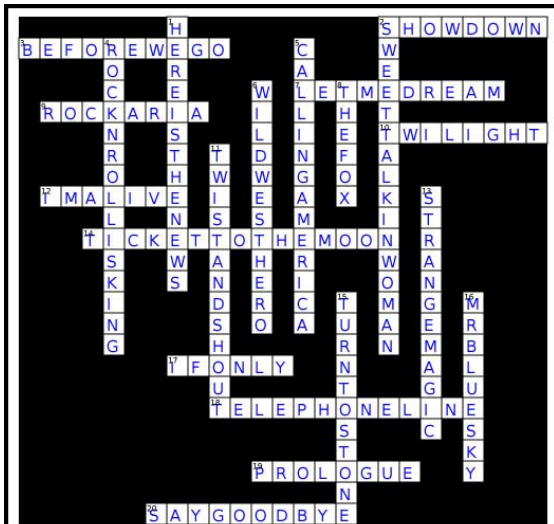
BevBevan
 GordonTownsend
 KellyGroucutt
 MikeDealberquerque
 PhilBates
 wilfredgibson

ColinWalker
 HughMcDowell
 LouisClark
 MikeEdwards
 RichardTandy

EricTroyer
 JeffLynne
 MelvynGale
 Mikkaminski
 Roywood



Solution to the Spring Newsletter's Crossword



On The Road with John Shipp

On tour, John Shipp is front of house engineer, a role which he describes as “the guy who mixes what everybody hears”, but he says in reality, in Europe and one off gigs, as one of the only crew members, his job entails also being backline technician and monitor engineer too! The latter is the equipment that allows the band to hear the sound everyone is hearing in the auditorium while on stage, although during the show there is usually an in-house engineer who baby-sits the monitor soundboard he has to set it all up.

For the average show John shows up early. When he arrives, everything is usually in boxes somewhere at the back. The backline company comes in and drops everything off, but it's not their job to set the equipment up, wire them etc, that is up to John. Gordon always takes care of his own drum kit while John sorts the monitors. During the sound check the band goes through the songs and he adjusts the 'in ear' monitors to their liking. That means a different configuration for each member of the band, for example Lou Clark does not have any of the vocals, while Mik just has Lou, Eric's keyboard and his violin. Every band member's requirement is different. The care of the monitors is then handed to the local staff and John goes out to the front of house. John says “this rarely works! Usually what happens is that I get time enough to check the monitors and then when I walk out front, the audience starts to enter and I am on my own.”

In the UK the band carries its own production. The crew travel overnight, sleeping in the tour coach, finally showing up at the venue around 9 am. Then the work starts, building, putting down lines, speakers and setting-up all the staging etc etc. “When we play concerts in Europe or Ireland we are using all the venue's speakers, backline etc, so they'll be there at 9 am and I show up between noon and 1 pm, to try to put everything into some sort of order.”

“I wouldn't want to carry my own set up for one-off shows, but on a long tour I always prefer to work with a familiar crew and my own gear” John reveals. “When we are in England and we bunch

a string of dates together, it is great to have our own crew along.”

One job of the “backline engineer” is to set up Eric's keyboard. He has a pretty extensive keyboard set up, while Lou's set up is much easier as his is basically a single keyboard. He also sets up the guitars and the wireless connections for Mik's violin, Eric's guitar etc. This includes tuning the guitars and ensuring the sound comes through true. “Mik always takes care of tuning his own violin, I haven't the skills for that.” The most frustrating thing is to organise is Eric's



keyboard, the set-up is just never right! “He is sort of special when it comes to his keyboards. He can be like ‘OCD boy’ - it's too high! It's too long.” He knows he is particular!”

John remembers during the last tour in Eastern Europe the venue didn't have the right set up. Eric uses a double keyboard stand and they had to create something out of two single stands. They ended-up with a real contraption that didn't look like it belonged on any professional stage. John posted his photo of Eric in St Petersburg with a roll of duck tape, two single keyboard stands, cases and rocket tackle. He says the comments he got from Stan and Greg Szabo (crew members) were brilliant – “Boy we really missed them at that venue!”

