

## Events and Performances

### Procol Harum with special guest Renaissance- SOLD OUT!

The sensational group that brought you "A Whiter Shade of Pale" takes the stage at Longwood's picturesque Open Air Theatre.

The night will also include a performance by special guest Renaissance.

**Wednesday, June 16, 2010, 7:30 pm**

#### Tickets

This performance is sold out.

[View Longwood's 2010 Summer Performance Series schedule.](#)

#### More About Procol Harum

According to The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy, "42 is the answer to the great question—The meaning of Life, the Universe and Everything." Maybe the late Douglas Adams, the writer of the Guide, who was a friend of Procol's "Commander" Gary Brooker, knew more than he was letting on.

In 2009, 42 years from the release of *A Whiter Shade of Pale*, Procol Harem saw their monumental first smash hit being awarded the accolade of **the most-played single of the past seventy-five years**.

Gary Brooker is most famous as the founding member of Procol Harum, along with Keith Reid; yet music fans have also appreciated his excellent work with such artists as George Harrison, Ringo Starr, Eric Clapton and Bill Wyman, Kate Bush, Wings, Mickey Jupp and even Lonnie Donegan.

Gary, "the Commander" to one and all, still leads from behind the piano.

Below decks lies a purring engine of a rhythm section in the hands of bassist Matt Pegg (Blinder, Ian Anderson) & Drummer Geoff Dunn (Jimmy Page, Dave Stewart, Van Morrison). Josh Phillips (Pete Townsend) has been in full charge of the Hammond since 2004, and last but not least, 18-year veteran and guitarist Geoff Whitehorn has supplied guitar by appointment to Roger Chapman, Elkie Brooks, Paul Rodgers, Roger Daltrey and several more of the British rock aristocracy.

The best part of the current five-piece line-up has been together for over a decade, yet the recording of *The Well's on Fire* in 2002 was the first time they'd been in the studio together, and their empathy showed. Procol combined state-of-the-art digital production with the "live" feel you'd expect from a band that recorded its landmark first album on four-track tape, the same manner as Sgt Pepper. Producer Rafe McKenna (UB40, Big Country, Ash) helped Procol add a contemporary edge to the time-honoured songwriting combination of Brooker, Reid and occasionally Fisher.

A new Procol Harum studio album is planned for release later this year, but watch out for the latest news, and digital downloads, at ["What's New" on Procol Harum's website.](#)

#### More about Renaissance



Renaissance's current resurgence coincides with the 40th anniversary of the classic English band's formation. 2009 saw singer Annie Haslam, whose five-octave voice is one of the most distinctive in rock history, reconnecting with longtime bandmate Michael Dunford, Renaissance's guitarist and principal composer. Haslam's soaring vocals and Dunford's evocative acoustic guitar work were cornerstones of the group's sound during its most prolific era, 1972-1978. During that period, Renaissance's pioneering fusion of rock, folk and classical elements attracted a devoted worldwide fan base that continues to support the band to this day. Renaissance's lush, orchestral approach, incorporating symphonic textures, poetic lyrics and a free-spirited sense of experimentalism, has always been particularly popular in America, where the band's classic '70s albums *Prologue*, *Ashes Are Burning*, *Turn of the Cards*, *Scheherazade and Other Stories*, *Novella*, *A Song for All Seasons* and *Azure d'Or*, as well as "Live" at Carnegie Hall became staples of progressive album-rock radio. So it's appropriate that the group launched its return to active duty with a series of intimate concerts in Fall 2009 for its loyal American fans.

Renaissance's new lineup finds Haslam and Dunford joined by four world-class instrumentalists whose talents provide new creative blood, while maintaining the band's traditional standards of sterling musicianship. Keyboardist Rave Tesar and bassist/vocalist David J. Keyes are veterans of prior editions of Renaissance as well as several Haslam solo projects, while keyboardist/vocalist Tom Brislin's resume includes work with Yes, Debbie Harry, Meat Loaf and Francis Dunnery, and drummer Frank Pagano has collaborated with artists as diverse as Bruce Springsteen, Bette Midler, Barry Manilow and Smashing Pumpkins.

Renaissance was originally formed in 1969 by former Yardbirds Keith Relf and Jim McCarty. By 1971, though, a series of personnel shifts had resulted in a completely new lineup, and it's that incarnation of Renaissance that would continue successfully through the end of the decade. The visionary approach of their albums soon captivated American listeners, and the band experienced considerable success as a touring act, thrilling concertgoers on such prestigious stages as New York's Carnegie Hall and London's Royal Albert Hall.

In the 1980s, Haslam and Dunford took Renaissance into new sonic territory, exploring a more electronic sound on the albums *Camera* and *Time Line* as well as performing with an all-acoustic version of the band. Following an extended hiatus (during which they worked on individual musical projects, and Haslam pursued her passion for painting), Haslam and Dunford reactivated Renaissance for the 2001 studio effort *Tuscany* and the in-concert release *In the Land of the Rising Sun: Live In Japan*.

Now, Renaissance begins an exciting new chapter, while honoring its beloved body of vintage work. Haslam and Dunford promise that the new six-piece lineup will perform the band's timeless classics with the same care with which the material was originally crafted, while utilizing technological advances to reproduce the music's original symphonic textures like never before. They're also enthusiastic about introducing the music to a new generation of listeners as well as longtime fans.

"I'm thrilled to be performing these songs again, and to be performing them with Michael Dunford and a great group of musicians," Haslam states. "These songs are a big part of my life, so I'll be singing my heart out."

"We're very excited to be playing for American audiences again," adds Dunford. "With these great musicians, I'm expecting the songs to sound better than ever, and I'm looking forward to it with great anticipation."

**Renaissance photographs taken by Krista Wallhagen and Richard Barnes.**

**This performance is in association with BRE Presents.**

This event occurs on the following dates:

**Wednesday, June 16, 2010 7:30 PM**

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