



BREATHE The Floyd Sound

UK based Pink Floyd Celebration Band

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Breathe in India 2009

Breathe are currently finalising plans to take in the Far East and India for their "Moksha Tour 2k10" in February & March, followed by dates in the UK. Breathe are always keen to discuss other projects or touring opportunities.

We are a collective of musicians who share a joint passion for the music and works of rock icons Pink Floyd and the rather crazy notion that you can have fun playing the songs for other fans. Content to remain wigless, so not a traditional Tribute Act it is the music that takes centre stage. The goal is to reproduce the studio versions of songs in a live setting. Our constantly evolving repertoire comprehensively charts Pink Floyd's development with material from all periods of the catalogue with examples of the earliest, delightfully naïve numbers influenced by Roger "Syd" Barrett, through to the later tracks, often orchestral in style, penned by Waters and

Gilmour. The project commenced in mid 2004 and the band has enjoyed much acclaim having toured extensively in UK and Asia.

Aside from mainstream gig activity Breathe have also had involvement in a number of related projects:

- 2007 attended a celebration to mark the 40th anniversary of the release of the hit single "See Emily Play". They performed the number to mark the event as a commemorative plaque was unveiled at Leeds College of Technology, where Roger "Syd" Barrett wrote the song.
- Later the same year Breathe worked with the Playbox Youth Theatre Company in Warwick to present a dramatised production of Roger Waters' "The Wall" in aid of OxJam which ran for two weeks during November to capacity crowds and which was endorsed by Roger Waters' management.
- In 2008 the band had the opportunity to present a show in conjunction with a lightshow by Peter Wynne-Wilson (Mister Oil-Wheel"; responsible for Pink Floyd's psychedelic lightshows at the UFO Club in the late 60's) which was held during "The City Wakes"; a Festival held in Cambridge to celebrate the life and works of Roger "Syd" Barrett organised by Escape Artists.
- December 2009 saw Breathe performing a live webcast performance, the first of its kind for a UK based Pink Floyd act, from community arts organisation in West Bromwich, The Public.

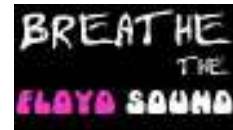


*The Wall
Playbox Theatre 2007*

MUSICIANS DEDICATED TO FLOYD ARE FIRST AND FOREMOST, FANS.

The deaths of founder members Roger "Syd" Barrett and Richard Wright, has meant that fans who were hoping that Pink Floyd would somehow patch up their differences and perform together again have finally been dashed.

Concerts featuring the music however are readily available thanks to Pink Floyd Tribute acts; a "Google" search throws up more than twenty such acts in the UK alone! Why would so many musicians choose to reproduce these songs? Admittedly, getting the notes right is fairly straightforward stuff but many of the numbers are complex in structure and require strict attention to detail because fans that cherish the songs often do so to the point of obsession. For the true Floyd fan, that which diverges significantly from the original will simply not be satisfactory.

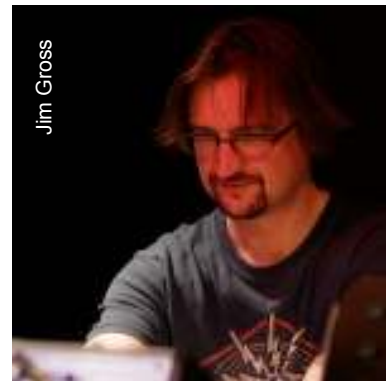


Recreating the Floyd sound is not a simple process. Floyd's success can be partly attributed to the vigour with which they pursued their ambition. They were focussed upon building and stretching their capabilities. Floyd evolved in the 1960's structured around a basic four-piece combo, they played quirky songs with distinctly psychedelic leanings that gained them popularity. The initial success did not halt their desire to develop, they remained open to new ideas and kept up the pace of change, continuing to push beyond widely accepted musical boundaries. In the studio and on stage they experimented with any new technologies that became available and in later live settings the numbers of additional musicians and the budgetary scale of their concerts has become legendary.



So, a regular Floyd fan can have very high expectations when presented with an act that claims to be a credible copy. For a Floyd tribute band that aims to deliver a comprehensive selection of tracks from the entire catalogue there are challenges, these will inevitably include significant investment in the gear needed to recreate the diverse sounds and studio techniques in a live setting and also considerable diligence in ensuring that each number is executed perfectly. To make the band a viable proposition, relatively few musicians are often tasked with recreating the sound produced by many and all this is mostly carried out in environments which are intimate by comparison to those where Floyd themselves performed. There are many popular Artists and Bands whom a good musician might choose to cover without all this extra investment, effort and risk. It seems though, that for many musicians, there is more to playing Floyd numbers than simply earning a living through gigging, there also needs to be some love.

An indication of the particular mind-set that might lead a musician to follow the Floydian path is defined by Jim Gross, keyboard player with Pink Floyd Celebration Band, Breathe. When Jim, a classically trained pianist turned recording and mastering engineer, was invited to audition for a part in the act he was asked to explain his motivation; he explained that, "I've gained so much personal enjoyment listening to Pink Floyd's music, the potential fun that might be had by actually playing it is just too good to ignore". Jim's thoughts and abilities struck a chord and he joined. At that time he was one of two players who jointly shared responsibility for the keyboard parts in Breathe. When the band were offered an engagement in India at the start of 2009 and Jim's keyboard "partner" could not make the commitment, rather than turn down the opportunity he locked himself in a room for a week and toiled solidly, acquiring kit, programming the sounds he'd need and working out how he could do the whole performance on his own without resorting to grafting on any extra limbs. He succeeded without resorting to surgery and the "Dharma Tour" of India commenced with Breathe playing to a capacity 10,000 strong audience in Calicut in Kerala which was followed by huge shows in Guwahati, Silchar, Kolkata and Delhi.



The level of personal satisfaction that Jim has derived from playing Floyd's music is echoed by the members of Breathe and also seems to be mirrored in other Pink Floyd Tribute bands; anyone who isn't passionate about the music just wouldn't pay enough attention to the degree of detail and impress the fans. It seems that playing Pink Floyd music is like eating Marmite, you just don't do it unless you love it.





AN OPEN INVITATION

Pipedreams...
Whither shall we go... ?
What might we do next... ?

Inevitably it is about the music and there are musicians at the core, but it is not only musicians who inspire us.

We're a UK based ensemble that has performed extensively and this we aim to continue doing but aside from mainstream gigging activity we also enjoy participating in other projects.

Allegedly we're the first UK Floyd Tribute act to have performed a gig streamed live over the internet.

We've played in myriad settings; Clubs, indoor and outdoor theatres, ballrooms, festivals, castles, a chicken shed!

We featured in a live dramatised production of "The Wall" in conjunction with Playbox Youth Theatre.

We had the opportunity to work with Peter Wynne-Wilson, Floyd's own "Mister Oil Wheel" from the UFO days in the sixties, at The City Wakes Festival celebrating the life of Roger "Syd" Barrett.

Best of all, wherever we've been and shared our love for the music, we've also forged bonds and working relationships with other Floyd fans and had memorable times at home and further afield.

If you feel that you could contribute in some way, you may have a performance concept that you would like to share with us, or you simply have an idea for a gig or tour;

Get in touch and tell us about your vision and we'll see if we can make it happen.

Be a part of the odyssey that is Breathe.

Like the Meddle album art; we're all ears.

RSVP