

freeform, with as much chatting with the audience and telling stories as songs sung. It was all very relaxed, very enjoyable and quite a unique experience for us. I'm not familiar with Damian's solo work, but some of the songs played were *Disciple*, *When I Leave This Land*, *Homegrown* and *Naked*. A couple of excellent covers of a Depeche Mode song and Iron Maiden's *Evil That Men Do*.

Damian also spent a lot of time before and after the gig chatting with everyone, and the whole experience was one we'll not forget. I hope more CRS members took advantage to catch one of these shows, and try to get something similar on at a CRS gig asap!

I did ask if he'll make the awards night next year, especially given that he appeared on the *Alchemy* album. He responded asking if he was going to win something? Well, he'll be getting our votes for sure, although Dave Longden will run him close, I'm sure.

DAVE BILLINGTON

CAMEL

Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall

20 OCTOBER 2013

This was the second night of the 5-date UK-leg of Camel's 'Retirement Sucks tour'; the anticipation and excitement in the hall was palpable as we took our places in this all-seated event.

When the lights went down and the 5-piece band came on there was a spontaneous surge as we all stood up loudly applauding for a good few minutes, and this was before they'd played a note! It was a moving outpouring of respect, gratitude and admiration for Andy Latimer on his miraculous determination and recovery, from what had been a terminal condition, to grace the stage for us again.

The 3-hour show was divided into two sets, the first comprising The Snow Goose performed in its entirety! We were treated to two keyboardists (Jason Hart and Guy LeBlanc) left and right of the stage and on the opening track Andy also played an additional keyboard. Each time a piece finished a standing ovation followed, not least the roar of appreciation after the first set.

The second-set surpassed even this, opening with *Never Let Go* they delivered gem after gem including *Song Within A Song* and *Air Born* plus the gorgeously relaxing *Tell Me* with Colin Bass on vocals and Denis Clement swapping drums for bass. Andy's performance was on top form, playing electric-guitar as if the music flowed directly from his heart and soul; his flute-work was also sublime. Other highlights included *Mystic Queen* and the superb *Fox Hill* (A Nod & A Wink album).

After thunderous applause for more, we got the encore that no Camel gig could be without: *Lady Fantasy*! They finished on a moving new song that Andy wrote in tribute to Peter Bardens (*Never Let Go*). Imagine the applause as they took their bows; it was a Camel fan's dream come true!

DAVE KENNEDY



STEVE HACKETT

Birmingham Symphony Hall

22 OCTOBER 2013

This was the first gig on the Autumn UK-leg of Genesis Revisited II, held tonight in the sonically amazing Symphony Hall. Support for these UK shows came from ex Pallas man Alan Reed (vocals, acoustic, 12-string guitar). He quipped that he'd asked Steve Hackett how Genesis managed to keep three 12-strings in tune on stage and said Steve replied: "We didn't!" Alan warmed the crowd up nicely getting them to clap along to some songs and his acoustic rendition of *Sanctuary* was a highlight.

Steve Hackett's talented 6-piece band opened proceedings with the full gravitas of *Watcher of The Skies*, Roger King's keyboard-sound filled the hall wonderfully. They treated us to a spectacular light show and classy performances of highlights from Steve's Genesis-career, not just note-for-note tributes but skilfully updated and refreshed renditions. Nad Sylvan proved not only to be a versatile-

vocalist, covering both Gabriel and Collins's vocal-ranges but also a great stage act.

Songs included *Dancing With The Moonlit Knight*, *Fly On A Windscreen* plus *The Return Of The Giant Hogweed*. Steve also performed an acoustic-interlude, quipping that it was his 'agnostic-set' for which he needed some white-powder, "Ah that feels much better," he said, as he rubbed the talc into his hands! *Horizons* sounded perfect in this venue designed for classical concerts; other highlights were *Blood On The Roof*, *Tops*, *Afterglow* and *Fountain of Salmacis*.

The screen-backdrops were first class displaying animations and scenery, a visual feast to match the music. Rob Townsend (brass/woodwind) was that good I saw someone doing air-sax during *I Know What I Like!* Supper's Ready was eaten up with gusto and Steve's guitar-solo on the encore *Firth of Fifth* was the crowning glory. Aptly *Los Endos* (with excerpt from *Tower Struck Down*) closed the gig to loud applause.

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