



The Progressive Underground Vol. 2

by

Kev Rowland

***Publication Date:
October 1st, 2019***

Retail Price:	United States	\$28.99
	United Kingdom	£19.99
	European Union	€25.99
	Australia (GST Exclusive)	\$39.00 AUD

Trade Price: Contact gonzo@cfz.org.uk for information

Contrary to popular belief, progressive rock didn't disappear with the advent of punk, and the lack of media support didn't prevent new bands from forming and new music being created, it just drove it underground. It is hard to imagine these days, with everyone being permanently connected, but there was a time not long ago when communication was by word of mouth and letter. With no coverage by much of the media, it was down to fanzines and independent magazines to spread the word of what was happening within the progressive rock scene, what was being released, and who was worth going to see in concert. Most of these magazines survived for just a few issues, while others continued for many years, all having their part to play in spreading the word. One of the most important during this period was 'Feedback'. It initially started as the newsletter of Mensa's Rock Music Special Interest Group in 1988, but when Kev Rowland became secretary in 1990, he determined to turn it into a magazine promoting music which often wasn't being written about in the mainstream press. 'Feedback' soon became one of the key promoters of the underground progressive scene, and Kev one of the most well-known and popular reviewers. He also became a contributor to Rock 'n' Reel, as well as writing for the Ghostland website in the early days of prog on the web.

Following on from the success of Volume 1, which covers all his progressive reviews from 1991-2006 for artists A-H, he has now returned with the second of the three-volume series, this time featuring artists I-S. The final volume of the set will follow in a few months' time which contains the rest of the alphabet, DVD and video reviews, various artist and short reviews, plus interviews and gig reviews. This set provides the most comprehensive look ever compiled of a forgotten period of the genre. It was while reading yet another "definitive" book on progressive rock that Rowland realized no-one had ever really written about "his scene", the one which he has been so heavily involved for more than half his lifetime. This series of books attempts to address that. It never proclaims to be definitive or comprehensive, but rather here are the honestly given reviews of a self-confessed proghead, whose only agenda has ever been to try and promote music and musicians he felt should be heard.

Along with the other two volumes in this series, this shines a spotlight onto a time when there were very few writings about the music in a constructive manner. Finally, it is again possible to discover some great music from wonderful bands, and this should be used as a guide to expand collections and understand that prog rock really didn't die, it just went underground.

About the author



Kev Rowland is a self-confessed music addict, who has never really been the same since he heard 'Sabbath Bloody Sabbath' in 1975. In the Eighties he spent quite a ridiculous amount of money on all things related to Jethro Tull and was asked by David Rees to write a piece on Carmen (the band including John Glascock, not the opera) for the Tull fanzine 'A New Day'. This simple request was life-changing, although neither realised that at the time.

Following on from that, Kev wrote reviews for the Mensa RockSIG newsletter, before becoming secretary himself in 1990. Over the next 16 years, the newsletter gained a name, and he put out more than 80 issues, many of them doubles, in excess of 11,000 pages. When he moved to New Zealand in 2006, he retired from the music scene, but was pulled back in – initially kicking and screaming until he accepted his fate. These days he can be found contributing to many magazines and websites, is a columnist with the wonderful Gonzo Weekly magazine and is a special collaborator on www.progarchives.com which is designed to be the most important and comprehensive progressive rock resource on the web. In 2018 he reviewed 850 albums of multiple genres.

When he isn't listening to music, writing about music, or thinking about music, then he can be found on his lifestyle block in Canterbury with his wonderful and long-suffering wife Sara, and their 8 cats, 5 dogs, chickens, sheep, lambs, calves and cattle. Oh, apparently, he has a day job as well.

Kev is available for interview but asks for initial contact to be made via email as time zones can be confusing to some people, and he does live at the end of the world after all:

feedbackfanzine@hotmail.com

Online:

<http://www.progarchives.com/Collaborators.asp?id=5626>

Cover art and design for all three volumes is by Martin Springett, <http://martinspringett.com/>

Selected Comments for Vol. 1

This book is best treated as a kind of guide to the neo-progressive guide. Thanks to this release, you can rediscover the wonderful albums of great bands and see that progressive rock has never really died, it just went from the mainstream to the underground.

Artur Chachlowski, MLWZ

Whether you use this as a reference work, or as something on the coffee table you browse through every time you feel like it. Or want to learn about bands you have never heard of or read it from start to finish - if you're even slightly interested in the history of progressive rock in the 1990's and beyond, this is simply essential material. Bring on Vol 2!

Jerry van Kooten, DPRP

All I can say is if you are a true proghead this book should be in your library of progressive rock literature. Because it's a great work. A book to be considered of superior or lasting artistic merit. Thanks, Kev, for keeping the progressive rock flame burning!

Henri Strik, Background Magazine

This "Progressive Underground Vol 1" is a gold mine for hard-core progressive rock fans who will be happy to dissect it from beginning to end to not miss a beat, but also for fans or curious to discover may be THE pearl by drawing randomly among these hundreds of often short chronicles, and in which Kev Rowland says without hesitation what he thinks

Marc, NeoProg

When you know the passion, the integrity of this hard-working guy, you easily guess this Volume 1 is a reference (yes other volumes will follow!). I should say a real bible written by one of the prophets who endlessly discovered and supported the new bands born in this new prog era.

Roland Roque, Acid Dragon

It's a book that is easy to dip in and out of, rather than one to settle down with for a long read. He's occasionally scathing - "the simple way to describe this album is just to say it is crap" – but equally he'll gush over his favourite band. The sheer scope of material should allow even the most dedicated prog fan to discover something new in these pages.

DW, Prog Magazine

Written between 1991 and 2006, you will discover a bible information on different formations of the time. Chronic well-crafted, short and mostly written in order to develop the subject with ease...Simply relevant information, the essential and useful. Personally, I believe that many current columnists should emulate the writing of Mr. Rowland.

Fred, ProfilProg

"The Progressive Underground Vol. I" is thus a treasure chest for the collector of obscure to obscure, but also well-known bands who were active in the 1990's. So, I can only recommend Kev Rowland's book!

Nik Brückner, Babyblaue

Rowland is collecting his reviews in three volumes (in alphabetical order): their preservation for posterity is welcome. His writing is informative, intelligent, and generous. It certainly makes interesting reading... As Brian Appleton would put it, thank you Kev for your contribution.

Rychard Carrington, Rock n Reel