

# A TRIBUTE TO EARLY **STEVE HACKETT**



**The Steppes** formed with the aim of bringing to the stage the musical tales from **Steve Hackett's** Charisma albums: *Voyage of the Acolyte*, *Please Don't Touch*, *Spectral Mornings*, *Defector*, *Cured*, and *Highly Strung*.

Veteran musicians from Los Angeles comprise the Steppes:

- **Scott Connor** – Drums (*Circa*, *Billy Sherwood*)
- **Randy George** – Bass, Pedals (*Neal Morse Band*, *Ajalon*)
- **Pamela George** – Vocals, Guitars, Keyboards
- **Peter Matuchniak** – Guitars (*Gekko Projekt*)
- **Jonathan Sindelman** – Keyboards (*Alan White*, *M. Keneally*)

A special focus is placed on recreating the original studio performances, including classic songs never played live during those original tours (or not played since). Following their concert debut, word quickly spread garnering international acclaim from fans, prominent figures within Genesis circles, and recognition from the original members of Hackett's first touring band.

"The accuracy and level of detail is outstanding"

**Nick Magnus**  
*Hackett Keyboardist 1978-89*

"Keeping the flame alive, recreating those magic moments"

**Dik Cadbury**  
*Hackett bassist 1978-80*

"A wonderful inspiring experience"

**Armando Gallo**  
*Official Genesis Biographer*

"A worthy tribute to Steve Hackett's legacy"

**Alan Hewitt**  
*Official Hackett Biographer*



# The Steppes



**Jonathan Sindelman**  
Keyboards



**Scott Connor**  
Drums, Vocals



**Pamela George**  
Vocals, Guitars, Keyboards



**Peter Matuchniak**  
Electric & Acoustic Guitars



**Randy George**  
Bass, Bass Pedals, Vocals

**Air-Conditioned Nightmare**

**Hoping Love Will Last**

**Lost Time in Cordoba**

**Please Don't Touch**

**Voice of Necam**

**Ace of Wands**

**Racing in A**

**Every Day**

**Narnia**

**Clocks**

**Kim**

**...and more to come...**

**Tigermoth (studio version)**

**Shadow of the Hierophant**

**Blood on the Rooftops**

**Two Vamps as Guests**

**Hammer in the Sand**

**Spectral Mornings**

**Hackett to Pieces**

**The Steppes**

**Horizons**

**Slogans**

**Jacuzzi**

## Review by Alan Hewitt

*(official biographer for Steve Hackett)*

The Steppes are, so far as I know, unique, in as much as that they are the only band dedicated to performing material from Steve Hackett's early solo years. Tackling the material of Genesis themselves is no easy task, as anyone who has tried it will tell you. Tackling Steve's early material presents even more potential pitfalls being both so varied and eclectic.

The show gets under way with an impressive Air-Conditioned Nightmare, always a stage favourite and delivered faultlessly here and I do mean FAULTLESSLY - close your eyes and... well you know the rest! Slogans too is truly remarkable with Jonathan Sindelman delivering Nick Magnus's keyboard licks with great panache, this really is as close to how those early gigs sounded - I know, I was at a fair few of 'em!

Clocks third song in? Oh, alright then and I must admit that drummer Scott Connor does look spookily like John Shearer! He sounds like him too as he beats his kit unmercifully whilst Peter and bassist Randy George are equally demented on their respective instruments.

The band are joined by vocalist Jimmy Keegan next who steps into Peter Hicks' shoes (no easy task) for a stunning version of Narnia. Let's just say that the goosebumps at this moment are quite something as he really went to town on this one and I found myself transported back to those heady days of 1978/79 when a much slimmer version of me watched in awe as Steve's original band gave us their homage to CS Lewis.

For me though the highlights of the show were a mind-blowing rendition of Hoping Love Will Last in which Pamela George who took on duties on twelve-string, steel guitar and keyboards delivered Randy Crawford's vocal to perfection, and Please Don't Touch which rattled along at a frantic pace.

Just about every classic Hackett track from the vintage years was here present and more than correct as the band did not put a foot wrong in their performance. I did not really believe that any band could take this material on and really do it justice, but I was wrong. The Steppes are a genuine class act and one which I cannot wait to see treading the boards here in the UK where an eager audience awaits them should they be able to venture across the pond - I for one will be waiting to cheer them from the rafters! To paraphrase Mr. Hackett himself, thanks for making a happy fan very old guys!

## Review by Patrick McAfee

*Dutch Progressive Rock Page*

For any fan of Steve Hackett, this show was a stunningly performed collection of classics. I am not sure of how many Hackett tribute bands exist, but I can't imagine any of them putting on a better show than this talented line up. For a cover band to not disappoint, their performances need to be fun and of the highest musical quality. No such problem with The Steppes. Hearing this setlist performed so effectively really showcased what a unique and original talent Steve Hackett is. The respect that this gifted group of musicians have for the original material was apparent and their tribute show was a corker.

Randy is one of the best bass players in the current progressive rock scene, best known for his work with Neal Morse and as a founding member of the band Ajalon. Chosen for the extremely daunting role of guitar player is Peter Matuchniak (solo artist and former member of prog band Janysium). Joining them, Scott Conner, who is a current member of Circa on drums and Jonathan Sindelman, who has lent his talents to Alan White, Mike Keneally and others on keyboards. Rounding out this gifted line up of musicians is Randy's wife, Pamela George, who performed everything from vocals to keyboards, guitars and even some percussion. If the intent was to put together a line-up of musicians that could handle the material, mission accomplished.

All of their performances shined throughout this evening of excellent music.

