

# Voyager

## The MagellanMusic Newsletter Summer 2010

Some very good news - **MagellanMusic** announces that **lyrics** to all their albums are finally available on their website! Go to [www.MagellanMusic.com](http://www.MagellanMusic.com) and you will see the 'lyrics' link on the main page, which takes you to a page where you can click on each album to follow along in chronology as you listen. The most frequent comment about **MagellanMusic** has always been vocals and lyrics, or lack thereof. Many have mentioned that **MM** singers aren't loud enough, or maybe speech was slurred, which made it murky at times, but in the grand old days of Prog Rock lyrics weren't the centerpiece of the song. For some bands lyrics and the melody were impressionistic, another 'voice' in the band, an entwined part of the experience. "**I Am the Walrus**" by the **Beatles** is a great example. But **Yes** was perhaps the icon of that ideal. It was more the sound of the lyrics than their literal meaning, a part of the musical design.

**MagellanMusic** has presented their share of abstract messages, but mostly they are more direct. Their songs are mystic tales, love stories, soul searching, consequence of life, even science fiction. It is very exciting to know that finally, after all these years, **MagellanMusic** lyrics are no longer a mystery. Please visit <http://www.magellanmusic.com/lyrics.html> and indulge!

Other news is the upcoming album. It appears that its release won't happen until next year. We are unable to determine why except drummer **Ellis Dee** once mentioned that the band isn't in a particular hurry. Another offhand comment from guitarist **Sill O. Syben** was the unexpected difficulties in recording, and a reference to the unusual conditions of it. That may sound puzzling but the **Voyager** staff has already heard that it's probably an acoustic album, and that some or all of it will be performed live. Since there has been no announcement of live appearances it's possible that these will be remote recordings, which would make the project more difficult. But the prospect sounds very exciting! When we hear further news we will be sure to pass it on.

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** All members of **MagellanMusic** and the staff of **Voyager** pass our condolences to **Gary Coleman** and family, famed star of the "Different Strokes" television series, plus our sincerest hopes of recovery to **Bret Michaels**, former front man of the band Poison. Hopefully everyone knows that

both suffered brain hemorrhages, both most likely caused by ruptured aneurysms, a neurovascular problem that is catastrophic. This is a grim reality for **MagellanMusic** (plus millions of other people) because it was a ruptured aneurysm that nearly killed **Per Jensen** 10 years ago. But there is much more to the story. Too little is known about these problems because the medical community doesn't put the needed effort into public awareness. Say 'aneurysm' to someone on the street and few will have ever heard the word, much less know what it is. And besides aneurysms, the various brain glitches are collectively the #1 medical killer, a shocking fact considering that awareness is almost non-existent. Our heartfelt advice is to have a simple CT scan performed once every 5 years during your life. It is strongly recommended because neurovascular problems are too dangerous and there are few symptoms that warn you. A CT scan may be expensive, but your life shouldn't be based on a price tag.

On a much lighter note, rumor has it that **Dr. Octavius Dankcellar** has created a new company called "**FSC Productions**" (abbreviation is for Filthy Slimy Creepy) and already has several movies lined up for production in the coming years. Octavius' brother **Septavius** mentioned the following as possibilities:

2001: A Space Bast\*rd  
300 Bast\*rds  
20,000 Bast\*rds Under the Sea  
The Silence of the Bast\*rds  
Bast\*rd on the Orient Express  
Bast\*rds at Nuremberg  
The Fall of the House of Bast\*rds  
The Bast\*rds Guide to the Galaxy  
The Day the Bast\*rds Stood Still  
Ace Ventura: Pet Bast\*rd

Septavius also mentioned that any ideas and suggestions are welcome, and to email them to [www.Wretched-Crap.com](http://www.Wretched-Crap.com).

**NEWSFLASH:** We have just learned that **Fred Wheeler**, former **MagellanMusic** member known as 'Amariah Hession', has finally begun piano lessons. Considering that he is 52 years old and still can't play one complete song, he was encouraged to take lessons from a very proficient 15 year old. This apparently took place last year. We are told that **Fred** has finally mastered "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" and is soon to tackle "Mary Had A Little Lamb". We will keep you informed of **Fred's** progress (if there is any).

*Suggested listening:*

Thanks to the demise of Prog Rock in America in the early 1980's, it became extremely difficult staying current with those trying to keep it alive. Only the most avid fans knew that it was doing very well in Europe, but almost impossible to enjoy since imported albums were extravagantly priced. Now that the internet has mostly eliminated those barriers, the **Voyager** staff has made some remarkable discoveries in recent months. Here are a few:

**"RPWL"** by **RPWL** - imagine learning of a German group who made a quasi-name for themselves as a Pink Floyd tribute band, but then surprisingly come forth with their own album. Could one expect such a band to be much more than a Pink Floyd clone? In this case not at all. In fact, **RPWL** is so good and so original that there is no mistaking them for anybody. Our first indulgence was their 4<sup>th</sup> studio album from 2005, **'RPWL'**, and it was a total surprise. As the album rolled along we were struck by the group effort, no overbearing spotlight for any particular musician, the imaginative orchestrations, sensitive vocals, and poetic lyrics. Maybe most astonishing was the power and magnificence they presented, the riveting sense of wonder it created. In our opinion, **RPWL** is the best prog rock band of the new century. Strongly recommended.

**"Photos of Ghosts"** by **Premiata Forneria Marconi** (called **PFM**) - another surprise has been the discovery that Italy is an old hand at Prog Rock. Not only is Italy generally big fans of the great names, but there are many of their own bands still alive and well today. The most well known is **PFM**. They were 'discovered' by Greg Lake of **ELP** in 1972, received serious support from him as well as Peter Sinfield (both also associated with **King Crimson**), enough that **PFM** was invited to Britain for re-recording a particular album with English lyrics written by Sinfield. **'Photos of Ghosts'** did so well that it made the charts, made college radio playlists, earned them a good share of live shows, even appeared on NBC's famed **Midnight Special**. The great part about all this was no mistaking **PFM** for any other band. Their style was unusual, adventurous, but well defined and easy to listen to. Their level of expression and play was so good that under different circumstances they would have been recognized as top tier, the same level as Yes and the others. Most of their albums are excellent, but we recommend **'Photos of Ghosts'** because it could be their pinnacle.

**"Darwin"** by **Banco del Mutuo Soccorso** (called **Banco**) - with a potential gold mine of Italian artists, the label that signed **PFM** (**ELP's** Manticore) also took notice of **Banco**. They too were signed and promoted, but unfortunately not with the results of **PFM**. But like their brethren in prog rock, **Banco** excelled. Besides the obligatory explorative efforts of prog there was a noticeable texturing especially with keyboards. There were also forays into classical and folk, very reminiscent of the Renaissance period. **Banco** did us the pleasure of sustaining a long career with many albums, and are still doing well, but for potential fans **'Darwin'** is the perfect way to start.

**“Fotheringay”** by **Sandy Denny** - many Americans only knew of Sandy as the voice that accompanied Robert Plant on **Led Zeppelin’s** great song ‘**The Battle of Evermore**’. This is unfortunate because in Britain and Europe she was well known for her work with the very influential **Fairport Convention**. Initially they were similar to the American West Coast/Jefferson Airplane sound, but it was **Denny’s** influence that moved them toward English folk rock, a sound that spawned many bands, such as Pentangle and Steeleye Span. But in 1969 **Sandy** went solo because she was an avid writer, and **Fotheringay** was a perfect vehicle for it. They were a very promising band, their self-titled album full of moods, memorable melodies, and wistful lyrics, but somehow it didn’t catch on. **Fotheringay** turned out to be the proverbial one-hit wonder. A second album was attempted in 1971 but was abandoned. For those who dig laid back and thoughtful tunes, this is for you.

**NEWSFLASH:** it has been reported that George ‘Dubya’ Bush has finally learned how to turn on a computer. When President Obama took office, one of the first things he noticed was the terribly archaic work atmosphere. The phone system, PC’s, programs, and printers were all very slow and outdated. It was so bad that Obama and his staff had to communicate using portable ‘Blackberries’. But now that Bush has the opportunity to possibly increase his IQ to 80, he is undergoing advanced computer training. Rumor has it that in only 3 months Bush knows where to find the ‘on’ switch and actually understands the phrase ‘boot up’. Incredible! Since it takes a calendar to keep up with such amazing leaps of intellect we will keep you informed over the next several years of George’s progress.

The staff of **Voyager** has just learned that **the IG**, **MagellanMusic’s** famed guitarist, may be starting a spiritual movement based on recent discoveries that he calls **CPG – the Cosmic Power of Groove**. It was never reported why involvement with **MM** lessened over the years, or what his new pursuits were, but now **the IG** says it was spiritual studies. He learned the ways of **Karma Therapy** at first, then established the **College of Groove** in Trip City, Colorado devoted to the study of the **Cosmic Power of Groove**. **The IG** says, “**CPG** is the coolest scene yet, man. I was like blown away, ya dig? Kinda like pluggin’ into an outlet of acid man, a karma connection that everybody can groove with. And its tunes that key the vibe, man. Ya can’t dig the vibe without tunes. Groove is a real cosmic power because tunes unlock that mystic door, ya know? Heavy sh\*t man, but like, totally *grooooooovin’!*” **The IG** is now listed as **Professor of Groovology** PhD, **CPG**, LSD, THC, DMT, MDA, MOR,Cod, PB. His assistant is **R. Lena DaPutz**, a **Groovologist**, who has a doctorate in **CPG**, THC, LDS, DSL, MLB, NBA, NFL, AFL-CIO. We will keep you informed of their progress!

**NEWSFLASH:** We have just been informed by **Vladimir Zsoerbin** that he and **Derek Story** are in the process of developing a new board game called **"RepubliCorp"**. It combines the classic games Monopoly and Risk. It will have numerous additions as well as a very different playing board, but the point of the game is to take over the world financially and militarily. Inspiration for it was from the horrendous Gulf oil spill. It was also the morose discovery that the spill was directly connected to the passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Republican backed legislation that virtually subsidized the oil and nuclear energy industries. Six players will choose a character to impersonate. Those characters are **'Papa' George Bush**, **'Little Boy' George**, **Dick 'Darth' Cheney**, **Donald 'My Speech Needs Therapy' Rumsfeld**, **Connie 'Oil Barge' Rice**, and **John Ashcroft 'the Ashhole'**. Fraud, graft, extortion, price-gouging, and propaganda are all allowed since Republicans actually operate that way. We will keep you informed of the development of **"RepubliCorp"**!

That is all for now, but be sure to visit [www.cdbaby.com/all/magellanmusic](http://www.cdbaby.com/all/magellanmusic) for discs and downloads, plus [www.cafepress.com/magellanmusic](http://www.cafepress.com/magellanmusic) for all sorts of fun collectibles.

Have stoned and get fun, man! (oops) Stoned and have fun get, man! (oops)  
Stoned fun and have get, man! (oops) And get fun have stoned, man! (oops)  
Fun stoned get and have, man! (oops) Get have fun stoned and - - -

Sh\*t! I'm outta here, man . . . . .