

Fill Your Head with PROG

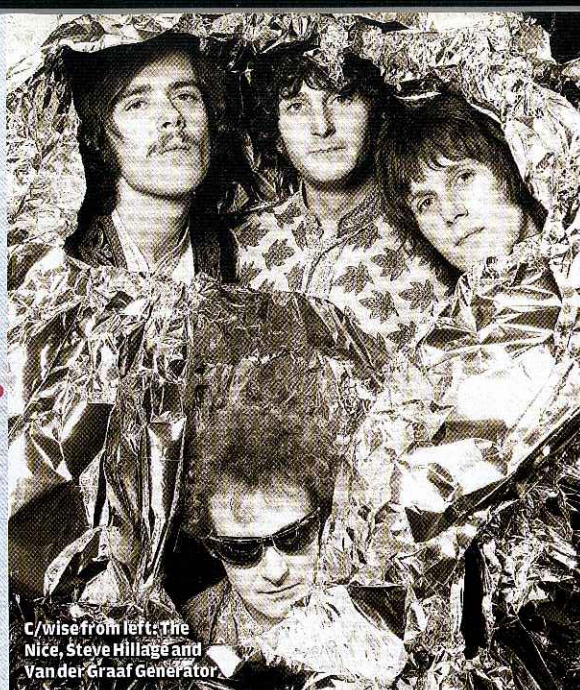
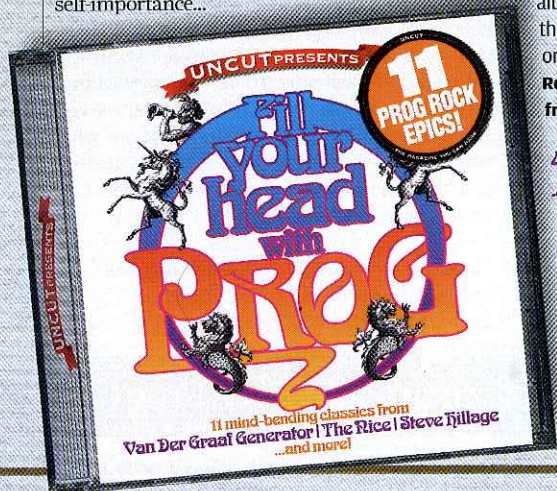
So all Prog was crap, was it? Listen to this month's **FREE** CD first, and then decide...

BY THE TIME Peter Gabriel quit Genesis in 1975, what had become known as Prog Rock was already under fire from critics increasingly jaded by music that had once seemed fresh and experimental, eccentric and inspired but seemed now to be increasingly self-indulgent and pompous.

A couple of years later, a bitter hatred of all things prog was one of the energies that fuelled punk. Johnny Rotten would eventually admit an admiration for uncompromising prog pioneers Van der Graaf Generator, but hardly anyone by 1977 - punk or otherwise - had much sympathy for bands like Yes and Genesis, who now found themselves critically unfashionable, their emphasis on vacuous instrumental virtuosity - lengthy solos during which the listener might grow a beard or die of exhaustion - incomprehensible concept albums and triple live albums of unique heavy-handedness and staggering bombast wholly at odds with rock'n'roll.

Of course, much prog deserved the derision, the howls of contempt, the barking disdain. Such was punk's scorched-earth antipathy that most people unfamiliar with what prog was before it became worthless now think it was all crap.

Uncut's Fill Your Head... CD begs to differ. From the raw excitement of The Nice's original lineup to recently unearthed rarities from Peel favourites The Way We Live, Tractor and Body, through to the high drama of Van der Graaf themselves, our CD is a vivid reminder of what this music was like before it became bloated with a needless self-importance...



C/wise from left: The Nice, Steve Hillage and Van der Graaf Generator



1 The Nice *America*

What Hendrix did to "The Star Spangled Banner", The Nice did to Leonard Bernstein with this flamboyant arrangement of the *West Side Story* classic. Organist Keith Emerson went on to form the deservedly derided ELP, but he's on fire here.

Taken from the *Castle* three-CD set, *Here Come The Nice: The Immediate Anthology*

2 The Way We Live *Watching White Stars*

This Rochdale duo - who went on to form Tractor - were great favourites of John Peel, who signed them to his Dandelion label, for whom they recorded a solitary and now much sought-after album in 1971.

Taken from the *Oziti-Morpheus* album, *A Candle For Judith*
www.myspace.com/tractorakathewaywelve
www.tractor-ozit.com

3 Aphrodite's Child *The Four Horsemen*

Demis Roussos and Vangelis aren't names you will often find in *Uncut*, but before they went MOR, in '72 they recorded one of Prog's most ambitious and apocalyptic concept albums, *666*, on which the thunderous "Four Horsemen" originally appeared.

Remastered version of a track from the *Vertigo* album, *666*

4 Tractor *Little Girl In Yellow*

Championed in the early-'70s by John Peel - who named them and signed them to his Dandelion imprint - and more recently Julian Cope, who cites them as a huge influence, Tractor are one of the great lost bands of the original Prog era.

Taken from the *Oziti-Morpheus* album, *Tractor 30th Anniversary Special Edition*

www.myspace.com/tractorpsychband
www.tractor-ozit.com
www.deeplyvale.com
www.tractortheband.com

5 Wigwam *Fairyport*

Finnish superstars Wigwam put out a pair of well-received LPs for Virgin in the mid-'70s, but hardcore fans will always prefer the full-on Prog of the line-up featured on this '71 classic, with Jukka Gustavson - "the Finnish Stevie Winwood" - on vocals and keyboards.

Taken from the *Love Records* album, *Fairyport*
www.lovemusic.fi

6 White Noise *Your Hidden Dreams*

In '69, David Vorhaus teamed up with the BBC Radiophonic Workshop to cut an extraordinary album for Island "assembled from monophonic tones created on a VCS3, edited together with tape splice", which was the soundtrack to many an acid trip.

Taken from the newly remastered *Island* album, *An Electric Storm*

7 String Driven Thing *Night Club*

Charisma label mates of Genesis and Van der Graaf Generator, String Driven Thing were originally a psychedelic folk-pop band who, with the addition of Grahame Smith's incendiary violin, moved into Prog. This is a track from their second Charisma album, which in 1973 was deemed "too disturbing" to release in its original form, but is now regarded as a lost classic.

Taken from the *Oziti-Morpheus* album, *The Machine That Cried* - the band's official version

www.tractor-ozit.com
www.deeplyvale.com
www.stringdriventhing.com

8 Body *The Sun Will Never Shine On*

Formed in Liverpool in '71, it took Body a decade to record their sole album, original copies of which are now worth a small fortune. Think early Floyd meets The Moody Blues.

Taken from the *Oziti Records* album, *The Body Album Plus*
www.tractor-ozit.com
www.deeplyvale.com

9 Steve Hillage *Hurdy Gurdy Man*

If you thought Donovan's version was trippy, try this swirling live guitar extravaganza from the former Khan and Gong guitarist.

Taken from the *Oziti-Morpheus* album, *Live At Deeply Vale Festival '78*
www.tractor-ozit.com
www.deeplyvale.com

10 Caravan *Nightmare*

Cerebral but melodic prog, from stalwarts of the same productive '60 avant/jazz Canterbury scene that produced the likes of Gong and Soft Machine.

Taken from the *Eclectic Discs* album, *Better By Far*

11 Van der Graaf Generator *Man-Erg*

Who but Peter Hammill could come up with a line like "Stalking in my cloisters hang the acolytes of gloom"? This is a live recording from their '05 reunion of a song originally from '71's *Pawn Hearts*, taken from their 2005 reunion at London's Royal Festival Hall.

Taken from the *Fix* album, *Real Time*
www.bandmad.com