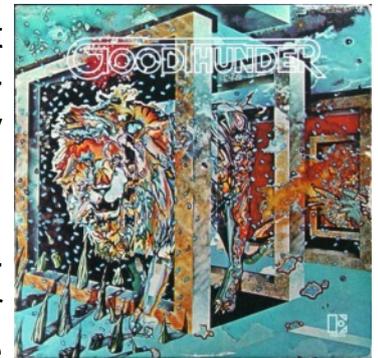


Sounds, Like The Seventies .



Hi my names Geoff Penn and I run a small group dedicated to both listening to and investigating the various bands who were / are involved with the genera of music known as progressive rock. The group is entitled “**Sounds, Like the Seventies**”. A kind of play on words because although the music, kind of started life in the 70's, the flag of ‘Progressive Rock’ is still flying high during 2020's with new bands coming onto the scene from all over the world, **Anyway, so many people have asked me about my group and what do we play so I decided to put down some words by way of simple explanation.**

Progressive rock (shortened as prog; sometimes called art rock, classical rock or symphonic rock) is a broad genre of rock music that initially developed in the United Kingdom the style being an extension of the psychedelic era and championed by bands who gradually abandoned standard pop traditions in favour of instrumentation and compositional techniques more frequently associated with jazz, folk, or classical music. Additional elements contributed to its "progressive" label: lyrics were more poetic, technology was harnessed for new sounds, music approached the condition of "art", and the studio, rather than the stage, became the focus of musical activity, which mostly involved creating music for listening rather than dancing.

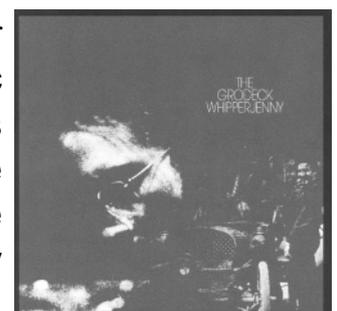


Prog is based on fusions of styles, approaches and genres, involving a continuous move between formalism and eclecticism. Due to its historical reception, prog's scope is sometimes limited to a stereotype of long solos, long albums, fantasy lyrics, grandiose stage sets and costumes, and an obsessive dedication to technical skill.



The genre coincided with the mid-1960's economic boom that allowed record labels to allocate more creative control to their artists, as well as the new journalistic division between "pop" and "rock" that lent generic significance to both terms. Prog saw a high level of popularity in the early-to-mid- 1970's, but gradually faded in acceptance due to the influx of punk music and the desire of the music press to focus on music at roots level rather than dealing with high calibre musicians. Music

critics, labelled the concepts as "pretentious" and the sounds as "pompous" and "overblown", and tended to be hostile towards the genre, who they felt had become dinosaurs. Also too especially in the UK other music cultures became popular that were introduced by immigrants such as reggae, soul and other dance music.



Never the less progressive music scene continued but was , to some part, driven underground with bands finding greater favour on mainland Europe where they achieved a fair degree of commercial success. Slowly more up and coming bands were influenced by the earlier seventies music and with the advantage of modern technology were able to progress their sounds to even greater heights of complexity. Terms such as Neo Prog, Celtic Rock, and New Wave Prog have come into fashion. And now all these years later with dedicated radio stations, streaming services and cultural magazines, progressive music has once again become popular with a vast number of music lovers worldwide.

