



Beyond and Before: Progressive Rock since the 1960s

By Paul Hegarty, Martin Halliwell



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A sweeping new study, *Beyond and Before* argues that progressive rock is the most concentrated expansion of form in the history of popular music. The book traces the ways in which folk, blues, jazz, psychedelia and classical music of the 1960s were drawn together by progressive musicians, against a backdrop of technological innovation. Rather than pigeonholing progressive rock, the authors explain its diverse roots and argue that a fusion of musical styles and approaches defined the 1970s even after the assault of punk. These connections are grounded by close analysis of albums and key tracks, and an examination of performance and cultural contexts.

Hegarty and Halliwell show that 'progression' underpins many subgenres of rock, including major progressive albums and bands of the 1970s, alongside neo- and post-progressive musicians from the 1980s to the 2000s. Featuring artists as diverse as Marillion, Kate Bush, Talk Talk, Radiohead, The Mars Volta, Porcupine Tree and Midlake, *Beyond and Before* is ideal reading for anyone interested in exploring the history and meaning of progressive rock – in all its forms.



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Editorial Review

Review

"Examining every aspect of progressive rock - words and music, theatre and politics - Hegarty and Halliwell deftly unpick the tangled threads of tradition and radicalism that make up the genre's tapestry. In addition to shedding vital new light on an often maligned and misunderstood phase in rock's history, this probing and incisive study tracks prog's continued and unexpected reverberations through popular music long after punk had supposedly vanquished and banished it." Simon Reynolds, author of *Retromania: Pop Culture's Addiction to Its Own Past* and *Rip It Up and Start Again: Postpunk 1978-84*

"*Beyond and Before* is a wonderful account of both the rich legacy and the ongoing story of progressive rock in all its forms. At last, here is a book that gives prog its due respect as a vital part of the history of rock music, without tying it to a simplistic narrative of over-ambition, decadence and decline. The best thing about the book is its comprehensive, nuanced definition of what counts as progressive. In Hegarty and Halliwell's capable hands we journey from such unlikely precursors of the concept album as Frank Sinatra and Duke Ellington, through the 1970s Golden Age of Jethro Tull, Genesis and Pink Floyd to contemporary exponents as various as Spock's Beard, Porcupine Tree and The Decemberists." - Greg Walker, Regius Professor of Rhetoric and English Literature, University of Edinburgh

"This is a great book. Hegarty and Halliwell have rescued progressive rock from the condescension of history by crafting a work that is smart, sympathetic, and impressively sweeping in its coverage of a much derided, yet enormously diverse and influential transnational music. Whether your taste is Porcupine Tree or Pink Floyd, Epica or ELP, Mike Oldfield or Midlake, there is plenty to admire and ponder in this ambitious and compelling account. By offering an expanded definition of prog rock in terms of its roots, musical and lyrical characteristics, geographic sources, artwork, performance practices, and legacies, *Beyond and Before* offers an exhilarating read." - Brian Ward, Professor of American Studies at the University of Manchester

"*Beyond and Before* provides a genuinely superb exploration of the amphibious identity of post-60s rock. As an artist who has navigated through various musical subcultures over the years, I am impressed with the broad scope and meticulous research of this comprehensive text." - Benjamin A. Vierling, www.bvierling.com.

"As broad as it is long, this book is the first I have read that is neither condescending nor overly polemic in its dealing with the subject. The wide area of music that it covers thankfully takes in much more than the usual suspects. Having followed the genre (sometimes unknowingly) since my first single purchase of 'See Emily Play' I was always bemused by the catch-all heading of 'Progressive Rock' back in the 1970s in which Floyd and other bands I liked fell. However, it has been so long established I guess we have to live with it despite the pejorative status amongst sections of the music press. If they were to read this book then perhaps they might be better informed. It is a fascinating read with entries about Gabriel as much as Gong, Miles as much as Marillion, Bernstein as much as Bowie. A brilliant book - the standard upon which any that follow must be measured against." - Mark Wilkinson, www.the-masque.com

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"Beautifully written and full of insightful and fascinating information and analysis. I recommend it highly." - David Tibet,
www.copticcat.com

"*Beyond and Before* is a very well researched and insightful book covering a lot of ground in the music world. It strikes just the right balance between academic and popular writing, which is no mean feat. I learnt a lot reading this and particularly enjoyed chapter 12 on post-progressive rock, which highlights the wonderful band Talk Talk from that era. It's totally engaging and well worth a read if you're any kind of music fan." - James Marsh, Artist, Designer, Author, www.jamesmarsh.com

About the Author

Paul Hegarty teaches Philosophy and Visual Culture at University College Cork, in Ireland. He is the author of *Noise/Music* (Continuum, 2007). He jointly runs the experimental record label dotdotdotmusic, and performs in the noise bands Safe and La Société des Amis du Crime.

Martin Halliwell is Professor of American Studies at the University of Leicester, UK. He is the author of *American Culture in the 1950s* (Columbia UP, 2007) and editor of two series for Edinburgh University Press: *Twentieth-Century American Culture* and *Edinburgh Critical Guides to Literature*.

Users Review

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This *Beyond and Before: Progressive Rock since the 1960s* book is just not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you will get by reading this book is information inside this guide incredible fresh, you will get facts which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. This specific *Beyond and Before: Progressive Rock since the 1960s* without we realize teach the one who studying it become critical in thinking and analyzing. Don't always be worry *Beyond and Before: Progressive Rock since the 1960s* can bring when you are and not make your carrier space or bookshelves' come to be full because you can have it with your lovely laptop even cellphone. This *Beyond and Before: Progressive Rock since the 1960s* having good arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

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