

tony levin RESONATOR

Iconic bassist Tony Levin has rightly earned his place among the most-respected and sought-after musicians of our time, performing with the likes of Peter Gabriel, King Crimson, Paul Simon, Lou Reed, Ringo Starr, Joan Armatrading, Art Garfunkel, among dozens of others. Garnering a Grammy® nomination for Best Rock Instrumental Performance on *Apollo* from *PIECES OF THE SUN* (2002, Narada), Levin has now emerged brilliantly as a solo artist. The Crimson-esque mix of tunes on *RESONATOR* spotlights Levin's technique and eclectic songcraft which have made him a legend among prog rockers and fans of seriously wicked chops the world over.

ABOUT THE SONGS

Break It Down

Analyzing – we're hardwired to keep digging into the mechanism of our world, but maybe not of ourselves. The middle section is originally part of a different song, titled *Far Above*.

Places To Go

Panspermia – the theory that life came to the cooling earth from elsewhere. Observed and shared was the excitement about reaching and exploring Mars – could it have been homecoming? We who travel a lot are sensitive to re-discovering old homes, and this song is about three of them: Mars, Boston, Heaven.

Throw The God A Bone

Gods – we look up, looking down we see our pets look up to us, adoring us as gods. They so want to please us, but do they misbehave? Sure, and feel real bad. Sound familiar? Soon enough we'll create new life forms which we will program to play by our rules...or not.

Utopia

Connections – all around us, awaiting our attention.

Beyond My Reach

Loss – it comes to us all sooner or later, and we all struggle to deal with it.

Shadowland

Co-written by the band members.

Crisis Of Faith

This still-new storm-shaken century: collisions between knowledge hurtling forward, civilization retreating – collisions are good fodder for poetry, and there are more than enough crises of faith to go around.

What Would Jimi Do?

Jimi Hendrix – so moving, so unique – a great inspiration to approach our music with open options.

Sabre Dance

The Khatchaturian piece was always a favorite – who doesn't like it? And shuffle feel vs. even eighths; a happy tension.

Fragile As A Song

Panbanesha – the song's not about a woman, but an ape. A few years ago Peter Gabriel called from Atlanta to ask if I'd join him there in playing music with Bonobo apes. They were stars of a language research facility, and were amazing at communicating and understanding language (and, for beginners, not bad keyboard players). Processing the magic of that day – that new kind of connection – took me a long time, but how better to process than with a song.

THE BACKGROUND

From his early years with the upright bass to performing tuba solos with his high school concert band, Tony Levin has always followed his own drummer.

Born in Boston, Levin played both classical and jazz from an early age. At the Eastman School of Music, he played in the Rochester Philharmonic, and worked with drummer Steve Gadd. It was during these years that both Levin and Gadd made the move into rock. After college, Levin moved to New York City and, with Don Preston of the Mothers of Invention, joined a band called Aha, the Attack of the Green Slime Beast. Soon after, he began working as a session musician and through the 1970s he played bass on dozens upon dozens of albums.

Preferring live performance, Levin joined Peter Gabriel's band in the late '70s. He had met Gabriel through producer Bob Ezrin, with whom Levin recorded Alice Cooper's *WELCOME TO MY NIGHTMARE* and Lou Reed's *BERLIN*. On that first Gabriel album, Levin lent not only his talents on bass – but played a little tuba and directed a short barbershop piece as well.

Levin has played with Gabriel, both on the road and in the studio, since then. During the years with Gabriel, Tony developed his playing of the Chapman Stick, and more recently, devised the "Funk Fingers" – drumstick-like sticks used to hammer on the bass strings.

On Peter Gabriel's first album, Tony met Robert Fripp and, in 1980, after having played on Fripp's solo album *EXPOSURE*, he became a member of the '80s incarnation of King Crimson. Through the years, Tony has toured with many artists including: Peter Gabriel, Paul Simon (with whom Tony appeared in Simon's 1980 film *One Trick Pony*), James Taylor, Peter Frampton, Anderson/Bruford/Wakeman/Howe, Seal, Tim Finn, and Richie Samborra, among many others.

The list of artists with whom Tony has recorded is quite long, including John Lennon, Pink Floyd, Paul Simon, Peter Gabriel, King Crimson, and Paula Cole. In 1984 Tony released *Road Photos*, a collection of black and white photos taken during his travels with Crimson, Gabriel, Carly Simon, and others. His photographs, black and white and hand-colored, have been featured in exhibitions in Boston, Danbury, Woodstock, and Zürich. In 1998, Levin wrote *Beyond the Bass Clef, the Life and Art of Bass Playing* – a collection of pithy anecdotes of life on the road and beyond.



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