

sound check

Getting behind Cash's legend

"Welcome Backstage," Greg Lake (MVDvisual, ★★★)

These late June releases feature one of the leading vocalists of progressive rock's glory days. Greg Lake was a founding member of both King Crimson and superstars Emerson, Lake & Palmer.

Unlike the Jethro Tull releases reviewed last week, this CD and DVD are different products in terms of song content. The DVD shows Lake working with his powerhouse band in pre-tour rehearsals at Shepperton Film Studios, U.K., and features "I Believe in Father Christmas," which isn't on the CD.

Both formats feature some of the best-known songs from both bands ("Court of the Crimson King," "Lucky Man," "21st Century Schizoid Man" and more), but the CD features more complete songs.

Fans wanting a compilation of most of Lake's songs from both bands should snag the CD. Both are available locally or online at these Web sites: www.mvdvisual.com and www.mvdaudio.com.

"The Man, His World, His Music," artist (Johnny Cash, ★★★★★)

This mid-July release is a 90-minute "fly on the wall" documentary shot mainly on tour in the late '60s. It includes 21 different songs performed in a variety of settings, plus footage of Johnny relaxing, visiting with friends and family. DVD extras include the ability to play individual tracks and a complete-at-the-time Cash discography. Duets with June Carter ("Jackson") and Bob Dylan, as well as a sharp performance by Carl Perkins, are also included.

Johnny Cash fans, there has been a lot of material released in the past few years, but this is a fine addition to your collection.

The remembrances of Cash, June and Carl while riding through sharecropper country on the tour bus are priceless. And, Johnny taking time to listen to aspiring songwriters in the dressing room also shows what a kind-hearted man he was. This disc is fascinating viewing, and the first Web site above will have this one if local stores don't



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Johnny Cash's life is examined in a new 90-minute documentary which features 21 performances, including duets with June Carter and Bob Dylan.

Ricky Flake is a former punk rocker, working musician (he sings with South Mississippi's Tribute to the Ramones, COMMANDOS; and drums with the Deacons) and music fan who lives in Biloxi. Reach him at lobotomy3857@bellsouth.net



As stated above, Greg Lake was a founding member of King Crimson. But, the first line-up of that most-mercurial group dissolved after their first U.S. tour. Many players served tours of duty in Crimson from then on, including notable drummers like the late Ian Wallace and former Yes-man Bill Bruford.

Drummer Pat Mastelotto came along in Crimson's latter days, and he is the main member of Tuner, alongside German touch guitarist/multi-instrumentalist Markus Reuter. Together with a wide array of female and male guests, mostly

on vocals, they have produced this album.

It is fascinating, but ultimately unsettling listening for me. But I can see some of the compositions as great for soundtracks. The expansive, evolving structures of the songs makes it hard to zero in on a groove, but the grooves are there.

Obviously, it's not my bag. But those who enjoy drum/bass and other mostly rhythmic genres will find a lot to like at local stores or online at www.tunerband.com or www.unsung-records.com.

"Pole," Tuner (Unsung Records, ★★)