



THE MUTE GODS

“Atheists and Believers”

Available as Ltd. Edition CD Digipak (with special packaging), 180g 2 LP Gatefold Edition (incl. etching on side 4 and the album on CD) and as Digital Album

Release Date: March 22nd, 2019

The Mute Gods deliver hard-hitting message on future of the planet in *Atheists and Believers*

Third album from Nick Beggs (Steven Wilson and Steve Hackett), Roger King (Steve Hackett) and Marco Minnemann (*The Aristocrats* and *The Sea Within*) features guest appearances from Alex Lifeson, guitarist with Rush, drummer Craig Blundell (Frost* and Steven Wilson) and multi-instrumentalist Rob Townsend (Steve Hackett).

As global populism continues to lead humanity down sinister, self-serving alleyways and truth is an irrelevance, does anyone have the capability of saving this planet? Have humans forgotten their responsibilities to each other, especially to those millions of people left homeless and displaced by conflict, while arms sales to warmongering nations carry on unabated?

These are some of the powerful themes that The Mute Gods put under the spotlight on *Atheists and Believers*. This is the third album in a trilogy of pulsating, turbulent rock compositions, that delves even deeper into the machinations that are driving mankind further towards an abyss of its own making.

The metal-edged, menacing wake-up calls to humanity are tempered by three gentler, more sentimental compositions in which Beggs reflects on love and loss, mortality and marriage.

“The album’s key message is that we now empower stupid people and don’t listen to educated, informed experts anymore because truth is no longer fashionable,” explains Beggs. “We must change this course as a species or we will all die.”

“Since the release two years ago of *Tardigrades Will Inherit the Earth*, the last Mute Gods album, we have seen the way in which political agendas are riding the wave of global populism.

“It would appear history teaches us nothing when vested interests are at stake. We are manifesting congenital myopia in denial of the responsibilities we have to each other and, more importantly, to the planet.”

For *Atheists and Believers*, Beggs has enlisted some very special guests, including Alex

Lifeson, Rush's legendary guitarist; Craig Blundell, renowned drummer currently playing with Steven Wilson's band; multi-instrumentalist Rob Townsend with whom Beggs worked in Steve Hackett's band and his vocalist daughter, Lula Beggs.

The Mute Gods is the musical vehicle Beggs created in 2015 to channel his song writing. It was conceived while he was embarking on an intensive period of almost continuous touring, firstly with former Genesis guitarist Steve Hackett and then latterly, Steven Wilson, the prolific, widely-acclaimed composer, musician and record producer with whom Beggs still records and tours.

Beggs' career spans nearly four decades, working with artists across a broad musical spectrum. Bassist, stick player, composer and vocalist, Beggs has sold more than three million records with his own groups, including Kajagoogoo, as well as contributing to genres such as pop, rock, funk, soul, Celtic and latterly, progressive rock.

Among the artists with whom he has collaborated are rock and pop legends John Paul Jones (Led Zeppelin), Belinda Carlisle, Kim Wilde, Gary Numan, Seal and Engelbert Humperdink, as well as progressive rock's Steve Howe, Rick Wakeman, Iona and Lifesigns.

Alongside Beggs in The Mute Gods are his regular collaborators Roger King and Marco Minnemann. King is the keyboards player, guitarist and producer of Atheists and Believers, and Steve Hackett's right-hand man for more than 20 years. Minneman, who has also played with Joe Satriani, is regarded as one of rock's most exciting drummers and has worked with Beggs on Wilson tours and recordings.

Beggs on **Atheists and Believers**, track by track:

Atheists and Believers: "This is the hypothesis that NASA and SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) have embarked on the search for extra-terrestrial life as a PR exercise when they and governments know it already exists....."

One Day: "An anti-religious anthem that states that we are here only by chance deemed by physics rather than by a mythical overlord, and on which Alex Lifeson plays assorted stringed instruments."

Knucklehead: "A song for humanity because we are all knuckleheads. I am not a fan of the human race: I believe we are too pernicious to be allowed to venture out beyond our solar system. Look at what we are doing to each other and the planet. It will be our children who will be left to mop up the mess and ultimately, will pay the most terrible price."

Envy the Dead: "There are many people who would rather die than face the world. This song is written from that perspective, but it has an almost comical undercurrent despite its bleak message. Gallows humour can sometimes lighten the darkness."

Sonic Boom: "Having worked for some years now with Craig Blundell in Steven Wilson's band, I wanted to utilise his approach to the kit. So, I wrote this piece based around his original drumming style."

Old Men: "It's the perspective of owning the bullet with your name on. I felt that by writing about old men, I could metaphorically own my own mortality. Ironically, I have just turned 57 and in the generations of my parents and grand-parents, that seemed old. This is not the case today: 57 seems like a new beginning. I don't intend to grow old as that is just a mindset."

The House Where Love Once Lived: "Recently, I came to acknowledge how happy I now am in my marriage and domestic life, and how both my wife and I had lived in our current home for longer than any other place. When you reach that point, I suppose you look back and forward at the same time. I think about who will live in the house when we leave and

how they will have no idea about the millions of micro events that took place there and formed our lives.”

Iridium Heart: “It is aimed at the root of populism, focusing on the shift of perceived reality in the face of political lies. The intro synth is supposed to emulate the opening fanfare at the Berlin Olympics, a herald marking the arrival of a new social structure where Nazis are tolerated and compete for gold in a world out of step with what’s acceptable.”

Twisted World Godless Universe: “This represents the battle between light and dark in a man’s soul - if such a thing does exist. As in my own battles with faith and disbelief, I felt the need to show those opposing sides. I was corresponding with a friend of mine, who is a nun in Finland, who was originally going to sing the lighter more feminine parts doubled by my daughter. But in the end, I stuck with my own vocal performance as it seemed to represent the dialogue’s schizophrenic nature.”

I Think of You: “I wrote this for my mother Joan, who died when she was only 38 and I was 17. Although I composed this piece, only my windchimes remain from the original recording. I suppose it is a meditation at the end of a deeply turbulent passage of preceding music.”

Track Listing

1. Atheists and Believers (04:09)
2. One Day (06:35)
3. Knucklehead (06:48)
4. Envy the Dead (05:40)
5. Sonic Boom (04:47)
6. Old Men (03:45)
7. The House Where Love Once Lived (04:54)
8. Iridium Heart (06:06)
9. Twisted World Godless Universe (08:32)
10. I Think of You (06:04)

Discography

Do Nothing Till You Hear from Me (2016)
Tardigrades Will Inherit the Earth (2017)
Atheists and Believers (2019)

The Mute Gods online

www.TheMuteGods.com
www.facebook.com/themutegods
www.twitter.com/themutegods

Line-Up:

Nick Beggs: Basses, guitars, Chapman Stick, programming, keyboards and vocals
Roger King: keyboards, programming, guitars, backing vocals, production and mastering
Marco Minnemann: drums, additional guitars

Guests on the album:

Alex Lifeson - assorted stringed instruments
Craig Blundell - drums
Rob Townsend - flute, soprano saxophone, bass clarinet
Lula Beggs - backing vocals

