

POWER

ROCK & METAL MAGAZINE

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THE MUSIC OF CREAM

MANIMAL

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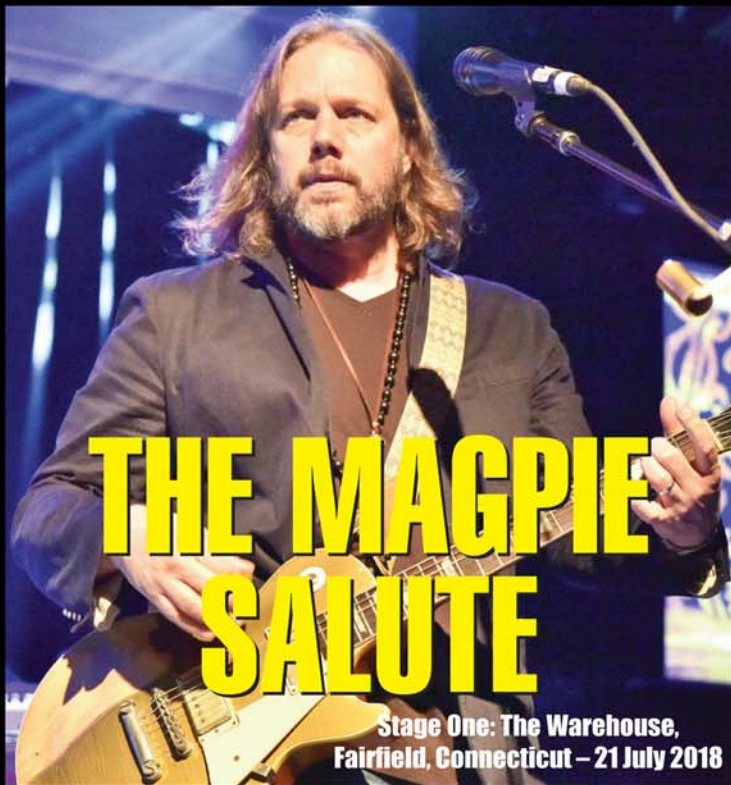
"After years and years of abuse, it was really the thing that saved me..."

Fabulous fourth solo outing from the GNR axe-slinger

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SLASH



**Stage One: The Warehouse,
Fairfield, Connecticut – 21 July 2018**

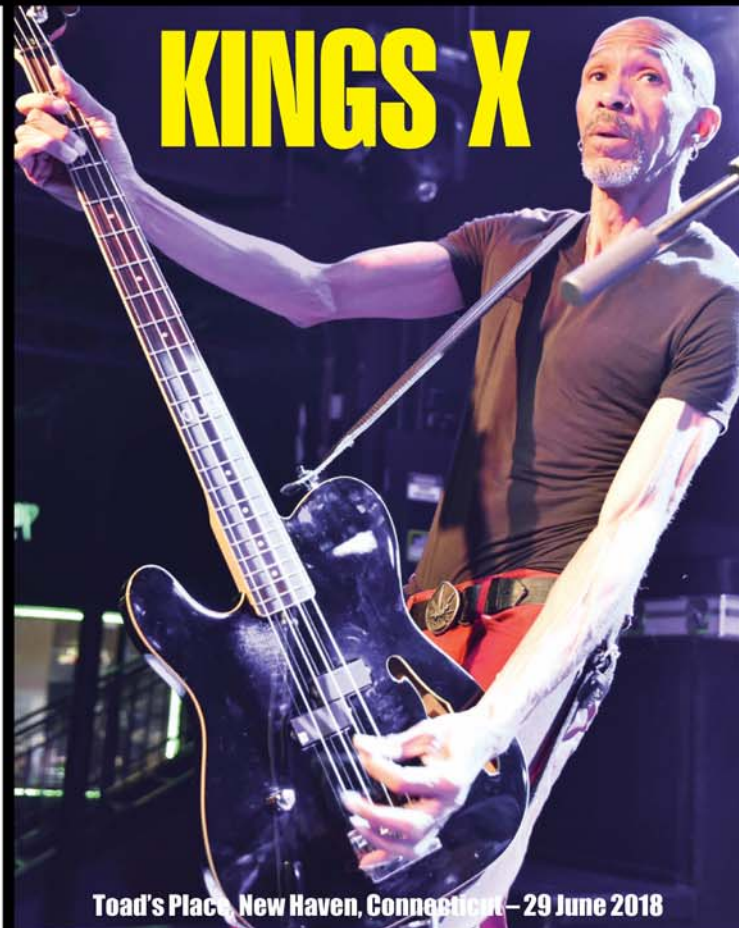
Rich Robinson's The Magpie Salute is a unique band that blends together soul, folk, blues, rock and gospel. Their first official release of original material, *'High Water 1'*, came out on 10 August (their first album was basically a live in the studio covers album) and it is, as fellow Powerplay scribe Mik Gaffney wrote, "as organic as music gets."

The last time I saw the band live was last year as a ten-piece. Nowadays, they're scaled back to a six-piece, but remain full, textured and thriving. Opening with vocalist John Hogg's previous group's (Hookah Brown) number *'Omission'*, it is a funky piece that is reminiscent of The Crowes thanks to Robinson's groovy playing. *'Mary The Gypsy'* and *'I Know You'* are two driving songs, the latter with Robinson taking lead. While Hogg's vocals are soulful, Robinson's are suitably dry, but emotive at the same time. A really cool surprise was the band's version of Presley's *'All Shook Up'* – cool as ice! Same deal with The Allman's *'Dreams'*, which allowed for both Robinson and fellow Crowes' guitarist Marc Ford to spread out and jam. The only Crowes' song played on this evening was the obscure *'She Gave Good Sunflower'*, which was a great version. Robinson's slide playing on *'Bye Bye Baby'* was Duane Allman-esque; so effortless, but so fluid at the same time. *'High Water'* was a slinky, acoustic tune, while closer *'Send Me An Omen'* was another funk-ed-up Crowes-like cut that sent us home smiling all the way.

'High Water 1' is a great album that you should already have in your hands, but to really hear the songs unfold is to hear The Magpie Salute in the live setting. When they come your way, I wouldn't miss them!

POWERPOINTS: ①②③④⑤⑥⑦⑧⑨⑩

WORDS & PICS BY TONY PIJAR



Toad's Place, New Haven, Connecticut – 29 June 2018

Kings X, known by their hardcore fans as The First Church Of Rock N Roll, are celebrating forty years as a band (the great *'Out Of The Silent Planet'* was released in 1988). Nowadays, the band's tours are much shorter than in previous years, so we here in Connecticut were thankful that they made a stop at Toads Place!

Dug Pinnick, Ty Tabor, and Jerry Gaskill took us through a brilliant seventeen-song set that spanned their entire career. The likes of *'Groove Machine'*, *'Lost In Germany'*, *'Go Tell Somebody'*, and *'Goldilox'* had elements of rock, metal, progressive, blues, gospel, soul and funk; that's how versatile these guys are! Their legions of fans came out in full force. During *'Pillow'*, for example, Dug stepped away from the mic and let the crowd take lead vocal – and it was breathtaking! The band's hits were included, with *'Dogman'*, *'Black Flag'* and *'Over My Head'* going down well. Pinnick, at 68 years of age, still has a rich, affecting voice that resonates within one's soul.

Kings X will forever be known as a cult band, but I imagine they wouldn't have it any other way.

POWERPOINTS: ①②③④⑤⑥⑦⑧

WORDS & PICS BY TONY PIJAR



CORNERSTONE

The Red Lion, Bristol – 26 July 2018

Considering this show was a last minute addition to their UK mini tour, an impressive turn out greeted Cornerstone as they came on with *'Nothing To Lose'* from their third full-length, *'Reflections'* (2016), the first album to feature current vocalist Alina Peter, who has an amazing set of pipes. The front of the band tonight consisted of Alina Peter, Michael Wachelhofer (bass, keys and vocals) and Florian Ernst who was standing in for original guitarist Steve Wachelhofer who couldn't play on this tour due to work commitments. The band plays melodic rock/AOR with classic rock influences and they did it extremely well for the whole of their two hour long, eighteen-song set. Songs were played from all three of their albums, as well as excellent covers of *'Sex On Fire'* (Kings of Leon), *'Burning Heart'* (Survivor), *'All The Small Things'* (Blink 182), *'Don't Stop Believin'* (Journey), *'The Middle'* (Jimmy Eat World) and *'Small Town Boy'*, a cover of the Bronski Beat song that appeared on their EP of the same name, which came out in 2013. Of the band's original songs, highlights were cracking renditions of *'Last Night'*, *'Northern Light'* (check out the great promo video for this on YouTube) and *'Heart On Fire'*. The band is currently writing new material with the view to releasing a new album in 2020 and will tour the UK again in 2019.

Set list: *'Nothing To Lose'*, *'Ready To Go'*, *'Last Night'*, *'Sex On Fire'*, *'Breathing For You'*, *'Being Unaware'*, *'Burning Heart'*, *'Like A Stranger'*, *'All The Small Things'*, *'Northern Light'*, *'Heart On Fire'*, *'Small Town Boy'*, *'Don't Stop Believin'*, *'The Middle'*, *'Stay'*, *'Rise & Shine'*, *'Like The Way I Do'*, *'Fade Away'*.

POWERPOINTS: ①②③④⑤⑥⑦⑧⑨⑩

WORDS & PICS BY ROLAND OEI