

# JOBSON / ZINC INFO

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MARCH 1984

Hello and welcome. This is the first information letter about keyboardist, violinist, and singer Eddie Jobson and his new band 'ZINC'. We would like to thank everyone for their interest and keen support. The function of this newsletter is to keep readers informed of current plans and developments in the career of ZINC and to answer the most frequently asked questions from your letters to the band. We shall also keep you informed of future concert dates and the availability of any merchandise. We hope to produce a letter every few months, in the meantime keep those letters coming. All correspondence to Eddie and the band will reach them personally.

## THE FORMATION OF ZINC

**FIRST LINE - UP :** ZINC has undergone much change since its inception in 1980. The first band was put together from audition tapes and was comprised of Bon Lozaga (guitar); Greg Smith (bass synthesizer); and Mark Craney (drums). This line - up went into Celles-tial Sound Studios, New York City, in April 1980 to record the first ZINC 'demo tapes' which were wholly instrumental.

**IAN ANDERSON :** The ZINC project looked like it could take some time to develop to the level that Eddie had in mind, so when his friend, Ian Anderson called him up with an invitation to collaborate on an album, Eddie, who normally does not do sessions for other people, accepted the offer. Among other things, it would help to fund the ZINC project. Eddie took with him to England the ZINC drummer Mark Craney (formerly drummer for Gino Vannelli and, violinist, Jean Luc Ponty). Together with Ian and Jethro Tull bassist Dave Pegg they recorded the backing tracks of what was to be Ian's solo album.

**JETHRO TULL :** In this early form Chrysalis Records, liking the new musical direction, persuaded Ian to complete and release the album as a Jethro Tull album. So it was... the 'A' album, to be followed by Jethro Tull tours of the U.S.A. and Europe and the shooting of an hour - long video 'Slipstream'. Eddie and Mark went along on the entire project - Eddie being featured and billed throughout as a 'special guest' musician. It would be March '81 before the ZINC project would resume.

**LINE - UP CHANGE :** Eddie decided that he did not have the right line - up to develop

his band to the point he envisaged. He had found a replacement drummer from auditions in Los Angeles in November 1980, but alas, no new guitarist, bassist or singer. Auditions in London and New York, and countless audition cassettes were also fruitless.

RECORDING ALBUM : The drummer's name was Michael Barsimanto and he joined Eddie in Connecticut shortly after the Tull tour to rehearse. Despite a shortage of suitable musicians, the two-man ZINC went into Minot Studios (pronounced my - not) in White Plains, New York and started work on the 'Green Album'. The recording started in May '81, only three months after the last Tull date, but its development and the search for the right musicians would continue for the next two years.

ALBUM DEMOS : A friend of Michael's, Pete McRae, joined the duo in the early days of recording but none of his guitar parts were used on the finished album. Much of Michael's drumming from the sessions did survive however; including the drums on "Who My Friends ..." ; "Green Face", and "Through The Glass". Eddie decided to select three songs and take them to a point where he could start playing them to record companies. Former Lenny White guitarist Nick Moroch was recommended by the studio for this task and, for the purpose of these 'demos', Eddie would try something he had never done before - he would sing the lead vocals himself - and see the reaction. The three songs : "Villager" (later dropped); "Listen To Reason" (an early version); and "Who My Friends...." were completed by September '81. Nick's guitar parts on "Who My Friends.." on the finished album (along with Michael's drums) are from these tapes - the keyboards and vocals were later replaced, and a bass guitar was added.

RECORD DEAL : Eddie (who has 'managed' himself since U.K. disbanded) played the tapes personally to record companies in New York, L.A., and London but the timing couldn't have been worse. The effects of the recession; home taping; video games and other factors, were starting to shake the music industry. September '81 was the worst month in a year-long trend of unprecedented declines in company profits. The labels were panicking; personnel were being fired by the hundreds; acts were being dropped and companies were either not signing new acts or were taking on 'one - hit single' type bands with low - budget deals for quick profits. It would be another fifteen months before Bruce Garfield at Capitol Records, after finding the original three - song demo sitting on someone's desk, would recommend a worldwide signing.

MUSICIANS : Meanwhile, the record was progressing; and so was Eddie's singing - which he had decided to continue with. Most of '82 was spent in Kingdom Studios, Syosset, Long Island - rewriting, rearranging, and of course, reauditioning. Each of the musicians who tried out left his mark on the album; much of the bass was played by Israeli bassist Alon Oleartchik; guitar parts were added by former Gentle Giant guitarist Gary Green and on "Turn It Over", by Swedish guitarist Gary Sharaf (formerly Billy Squier's band). Even in the last week of recording - Eddie, still searching for the ideal ZINC line - up, flew in L.A. musicians Michael Cuneo and Jerry Watts to replace some guitar

and bass parts. The mixing of the album was completed by March 1983; at this time the band was considered to consist of Jobson, Cuneo, Watts, and Barsimanto.

RELEASE : The 'Green Album' was released in the U.S. and Canada on June 17th 1983 to critical acclaim - other countries followed within the next few months (it was selected among the best records of '83 by the London Times). Later that month Eddie would make one more personnel change for the shooting of the video - bassist Jerry Watts was replaced by Doug Lunn. The line - up of Eddie Jobson, Michael Cuneo, Doug Lunn, and Michael Barsimanto was seen for the first time, performing "Turn It Over", on MTV the same day the single was released in the U.S. - August 12th 1983. ZINC was finally a band!

#### KEYBOARD MAGAZINE

Every year 'Keyboard' magazine has a readers poll, we thought you might like to know how Eddie did for 1983; Best Rock Keyboardist: 2nd place; Lead Synthesist: 4th place; Multi - Keyboardist: 4th place; Best Keyboard Album (The Green Album) 2nd place; Overall Best: 4th place.

#### INFORMATION CLUB EXCLUSIVE:

#### WHAT HAPPENED WITH 'YES' - THE FULL STORY

INVITATION : Many of you have asked if Eddie is in or out of YES (still now) - the answer is that Eddie is not in YES, although I'm sure that is pretty obvious by now, here's what happened.... while visiting England last September - Eddie received a phone call from YES' manager to see if he was interested in discussing the possibility of joining the band. Eddie had turned down such offers before - as long ago as 1974 when Wakeman first left and as recently as 1982 when Chris Squire first started what turned into the new YES - then called 'Cinema'. However, Eddie had always liked the band and as the ZINC album was now completed and released and he was there in England, he went down to their rehearsal room. After playing only a few tunes with them, they (YES) formally invited him to join the band.

VIDEO : Eddie was given the impression that the timetable would allow him to be a member of YES and still have time for ZINC, so after discussions with Capitol Records, he agreed to join. Everyone seemed pleased with the new arrangement so after a brief photo - session with the new YES, Eddie went back to the States - only to be invited to return to England again in October to shoot the video "Owner Of A Lonely Heart". Meanwhile, various members of YES were feeling that the previous keyboard player Tony Kaye had been unfairly dismissed, having been asked to leave halfway through the recording

- of the '90125' album, after a clash with producer Trevor Horn.

TWO KEYBOARDISTS : In November '83, after the video shooting was completed, the members of YES, without consultation with Eddie, invited Tony Kaye back into the group - they would use two keyboard players on tour! When Eddie was told of their decision he was outraged - why was he not consulted before such a monumental decision? When Eddie voiced his outrage he was told that the decision had been made and that they weren't about to sack Tony Kaye a third time! (He was first dismissed from YES in 1971). If this was typical of how the band functioned Eddie wanted no part of it. Besides, it seemed that the time available for the ZINC project would be much less than his initial impressions indicated and now even his reasons for accepting the challenge of being YES' keyboardist were to be diluted through a decision he disagreed with.

DEPARTURE : The scales were tipped - Eddie decided to leave the band and focus his energies exclusively upon ZINC as he had for the previous three years. He would be edited from the video, the photographs would be withdrawn, and his departure would be announced on MTV the following week.

AFTERTHOUGHT : YES have abandoned the two - keyboard - player idea and, although unsure of Kaye's technical aptitude, have chosen to continue to tour with just him. The whole unsettling experience has left Eddie with an encouraging and philosophical attitude about ZINC. He recently said; "I remember why I formed ZINC in the first place, I didn't want to compromise any longer to decisions made within a democracy of temperamental musicians. I somehow managed to land myself back into a similar situation again, not realizing how literal the invitation to become a 'YES - man' really was. Ultimately, any major band can split up and leave you without a career again; that's why ZINC is so important to me, I've finally created a situation where I don't have to rely on other people for my livelihood."

#### PRESENT ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE PLANS

Eddie is now writing material for the next ZINC album which will be named after another color- many of you have already guessed the color and T-shirt buyers will find out the color for sure. The recording is scheduled to start in May. ZINC haven't done any live concerts yet, but we hear that Eddie is planning some concerts to coincide with the release of the next album! We shall keep you informed.

#### FUTURE ISSUES

The next letter will include a discography of all the albums Eddie has played on - the only complete discography ever printed. Future issues will also include detailed reports on Eddie's previous bands, including much requested 'UK' lyrics; also 'Green' album lyrics for those of you who bought cassettes, complete with an explanation by Eddie of the

concept of the album...and more!

MERCHANDISE

Good news! We are pleased to announce the availability, for the first time, of ZINC T-shirts. These are limited edition, heather - grey T-shirts with black and green print, available from SILVER PRODUCTS for \$12.00 (includes shipping and handling). These 'green period' T-shirts could become quite a collector's item. Please use the enclosed order form. In the future we look forward to offering you buttons, photographs, and posters. There will also be special collector's items available through the occasional contests. We've done our best to make this first newsletter an exciting one so we hope that you have enjoyed it - until the next letter - keep the correspondence rolling in and 'Think ZINC' !

Sincerely,

*Sylvia*

Secretary, JOBSON/ZINC Info

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ORDER FORM

Cut out and send to : SILVER PRODUCTS, C/O P.O. BOX 1558, GREENWICH, CT. 06830 (U.S.A.)

Please send me the following JOBSON/ZINC T-shirts :

<u>Quantity</u>	___ small	Print name : _____
	___ medium	Address : _____
	___ large	_____
	___ ex-large	_____

I enclose a check or money order for \$12.00 per T-shirt (includes shipping & handling) payable to 'SILVER PRODUCTS'. Overseas residents add \$1.00 extra per shirt for shipping and handling. Connecticut residents please add  $7\frac{1}{2}\%$  sales tax to total.

Total amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Satisfaction guaranteed or return for a full refund. Allow 2 - 6 weeks for delivery. Non U.S. residents send International Money Order payable in U.S. dollars.