

Cirrus Minor

Good afternoon. My name is Björgvin Rúnar Leifsson and this is an episode about Pink Floyd.

In 1969, Pink Floyd released two albums. The first one was released in July and the name varied a bit by publications. Mine is called "Original Motion Picture Soundtrack More "but most people simply call this album" More ". As the long name implies, this is a film soundtrack album, the first of two, that Pink Floyd released and contained only songs by themselves. The other was "Obscured by Clouds", which was released in 1972 and which we'll learn about later. Pink Floyd actually composed songs for other films. The first was "The Committee" in 1968, to say the least a bizarre film by director Peter Sykes with almost as weird compositions by Pink Floyd along with the song "Nightmare" by Arthur Brown. The music for the film was never released on an album but the film was released on a DVD about 15 years ago which I own of course.

Another film with songs by Pink Floyd was Zabriskie Point in 1970, from which we will hear an excerpt in the next episode. And let's not forget "Tonight Let's All Make Love in London" in 1967, which we heard about in the first episode, and Live at Pompeii in 1972, which shows PF holding a concert for themselves in an empty amphitheater from the time of the Roman Empire in the ancient city of Pompeii in Italy. Last but not least is the 1982 Alan Parker film The Wall based on the famous album since 1979.

But let's look a bit into More. The director of the film is Barbet Schroeder, who also made the film "La Vallee" in 1972, but "Obscured by Clouds" contains all the songs from that movie. More is recorded, among other places in Ibiza, Spain, and is about a German student who decides to take a vacation to celebrate his math graduation and ends up as a heroin addict. The band's songs on this album are a bit out of their evolutionary path, so to speak, that is less of acid rock and progressive or developed rock than we are used to at this time. There are songs heavy rock style but also some in a semi-ballad style and they are mostly by Waters, who alone wrote almost half of the songs on the album. On the other hand we notice that various new sound effects are being introduced, such as the song of the lark in the song we heard at the beginning, "Cirrus Minor", which is also the first track on the album and is by Waters. Furthermore, it can be pointed out that this is the first major album, where Barrett is not involved and that this is the first of only three Pink Floyd albums where Gilmour does all the singing. The others are "A Momentary Lapse of Reason" since 1987 and "The Endless River" since 2014.

The next song we hear is "Crying Song" by Waters.

Crying Song

The third song we will listen to from the album More is "Green is the color" and is also by Waters. This song was often played in concerts in those years.

Green is the Color

The next song from More is "Cymbaline" and is also by Waters.

Cymbaline

The next song is called "Main Theme" and is by all the band members

Main Theme

Finally, I'm going to play the song "A Spanish Piece" from More, which is to my best knowledge, the first song on a Pink Floyd album, which is entirely by Gilmour.

A Spanish Piece

In 1968 and 69, Pink Floyd played a number of concerts with various songs. Some were from the Barrett period but there were also newer songs, like from "A Saucerful of Secrets", the singles released in 1968 and also some material, which did not end up on an album during those years. Most of this stuff, but probably not all, has later been released on compilation albums, such as "Relics" since 1971.

Late in 1969 they went to the studio and made an amazing and very heavy album, which was given the strange name "Ummagumma". According to some sources, this is a slang word from Cambridge, which simply means to shag and one of the band's roadies from those years, who is actually from Cambridge, has claimed that this word is his personal and private invention.

Ummagumma is special. It is a double album where the first record is a concert record from at least two concerts. The second one is, however, a studio record where each of the band members plays his solo work for half a record side each regardless of what the other band members are doing.

First up is Richard Wright with "Sisyphus", about the ancient Greek king, who was condemned by the gods to roll a stone up a mountain, just to see it roll down again and has to repeat the game. Then comes Roger Waters with two songs, next is David Gilmour with "The Narrow Way" and the last one is Nick Mason.

The album was well received but for some reason the band members were not as impressed as the critics and at least Waters and Gilmour have described it as rubbish and Gilmour has actually said that his part was nonsense from the beginning to the end. Mason described it like it would have been a decent experiment but the result, that is, the sum of the four parts, would not have been equal to the combined four band members.

As Wright's "Sisyphus" and Gilmour's "The Narrow Way" are probably too heavy I will skip those two songs. However, I will allow you to listen to Waters' and Mason's contributions. Waters' album quarter is made up by two songs. The first is a delightful ballad, which is called "Grantchester Meadows" which actually exists in Cambridge. Here, Waters uses the sounds of nature so it is like being out in the field. The other one has probably the longest name in music history. „Several Species of Small Furry Animals Gathered Together in a Cave and Grooving With a Pict ". In short, this is a masterpiece of effects and voice mixing. Enjoy and notice the fly.

Grantchester Meadows

Several Species of Small Furry Animals Gathered Together in a Cave and Grooving With a Pict

Mason's work, "The Grand Viziers Garden Party," is divided into three parts, "Entrance", "Entertainment" and "Exit" and his former wife, Lindy Mason, plays the flute in the beginning and the end. The percussion part is a stereophonic experience, no more and no less.

This will be the last one for tonight.

Meu nome é Björgvin Rúnar Leifsson e eu sei muito pouco sobre o Pink Floyd. Obrigado e até depois.

The Grand Vizier's Garden Party