

The base is the story of a friendship. The singer-songwriter Paola Tagliaferro in 2012 met Greg Lake and his wife Regina; from there an acquaintance - once we would have said - "correspondence" until Lake left us. Following the sad event, it was his wife Regina who suggested to Tagliaferro the creation of a tribute that would tell with another voice the path of the British musician through the most famous songs (so much so that Regina Lake herself has artistically co-produced the Album).

For the occasion, Paola Tagliaferro, once the playlist has been selected, gathered around her an "open" group of instrumentalists under the suggestive name of "La Compagnia dell'Es", an ensemble that features, among others, the harpist Vincenzo Zitello. Already from the choice of "colors" we learn that the band lives on a strong acoustic and chamber profile for which the guitar (Pier Gonella) and the piano (Andrea Zanzottera) go for a walk with the viola (Giulia Ermirio) and other unusual instruments (in the popular music range) such as oboe, xylophone and lute (played by Pierangelo Pandiscia and Gino Ape under the acronym Enten Hitti); there is no shortage of percussion (Umberto Trombetta Gandhi) dosed with grain salis.

The result is pleasant: Tagliaferro's voice (which is well suited to the lyrical mood of the songs) is enhanced to the maximum by the outline of the instrumental arrangements: a fusion soul unravels in From the Beginning, only hinted at in the original; Promenade 2 gives us a certain Musorgskian magic thanks to the oboe and flute finishes, just as Gonella's guitar accentuates the baroque aura of The Sage. She also evokes the sober rhythmic vivacity of I Believe in Father Christmas and the aura between folk and classical in Still ... You Turn Me On ...

As for vocal interpretation, Tagliaferro gives its best in The Sage, Take a Pebble and Moonchild: here the lyrical intensity of the singing tract gives further clarity to Lake's rich songbook.

The farewell with the Epitaph and Battlefield medley almost has a theatrical flavor: you could not close the curtain with better synthesis, merging the double consubstantial experience of Lake from King Crimson to E.L. & P. La Tagliaferro and La Compagnia dell'Es transform the diptych into a sort of soundtrack that tells the musician (and the man) through what the words can evoke, perhaps passing on the edge of an instrumental heart with a happy chamber music flavor. While we listen, our short film also passes before our eyes, the one that narrates our passion for those two groups and in the last notes of the track, just before Tagliaferro's voice becomes silence in a guitar harmonic, we realize that this tribute has hit the mark. (Riccardo Storti)