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Emerson, Lake & Palmer can still turn us on with these top 5 song lyrics



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Emerson, Lake & Palmer no longer tour as a trio, but Keith Emerson and Greg Lake have recorded and toured together as a duo. In 2010 Keith and Greg released an album titled *Live from Manticore Hall*. Performing a two man version of the iconic [Emerson, Lake & Palmer songs](#), the album was recorded during their American tour.

The power trio was one of the most commercially successful and popular progressive rock bands of their era. Their music relied heavily on the use of the Moog synthesizer, Hammond organ and Keith Emerson's

use of what has been described as the “flamboyant virtuoso” use of the piano. Classical music, hard rock and jazz were the dominating influences in the music created by ELP.

Keith Emerson, Greg Lake and Carl Palmer made up the British trio, but it found its origins at the Fillmore West in San Francisco. Emerson and Lake, who were looking for projects outside their current bands, worked together and found their styles were “compatible and complementary.” Music impresario Robert Stigwood suggested that they add Carl Palmer as their drummer. At first Palmer was resistant to leaving his current band, Atomic Rooster. But he felt what he described as “magic” when he played with Keith and Greg. And thus, Emerson, Lake & Palmer was born.

The band recorded many great songs over their career as a trio. What are the five best Emerson, Lake & Palmer lyrics?

5. [“I Believe in Father Christmas”](#): Put in the category with Christmas carols and happy Christmas songs, “I Believe in Father Christmas” is actually an anti-Christmas tune, though not anti-religious. The song oozes of disgust for the commercialization of the Christmas holiday. The single was released separately from the [1975 album *Works Volume 2*](#) and peaked at number two on the charts in the United Kingdom. The best verse of the song is, “They sold me a dream of Christmas. They sold me a Silent Night. And they told me a fairy story 'till I believed in the Israelite. And I believed in Father Christmas. And I looked to the sky with excited eyes 'till I woke with a yawn in the first light of dawn and I saw him and through his disguise.”

4. [“Lucky Man”](#): One of the first times a Moog synthesizer was used in the arrangement of a song, “Lucky Man” was released on the trio’s self-titled 1970 album. The song was written by Greg Lake when he was 12-years-old. [“Lucky Man”](#) was a minor hit on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 chart peaking at number 48. Rereleased in 1973, “Lucky Man” peaked at number 51 on the same chart. The best verse of the song is, “A bullet had found him. His blood ran as he cried. No money could save him. So he laid down and he died. Ooooh, what a lucky man he was.”

3. [“From the Beginning”](#): Released on the 1972 album *Trilogy*, “From the Beginning” peaked at the number 39 spot on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 and at number 40 on the U.S. Cash Box Top Singles chart. [“From the Beginning”](#) was the highest charting song of ELP’s career. It includes acoustic and electric guitar on rhythm and lead, as well as electric bass guitar. The song was written and sung by Greg Lake and includes a distinctive ending synthesizer solo by Keith Emerson. Carl Palmer layers in backing drums using tympani mallets instead of cymbals. The best verse of the song is, “Maybe I might have changed

and not been so cruel. Not been such a fool. Whatever was done is done. I just can't recall. It doesn't matter at all. You see it's all clear. You were meant to be here from the beginning."

2. "[Still...You Turn Me On](#)": Included on the 1973 album *Brain Salad Surgery*, "Still...You Turn Me On", written by Greg Lake, is open to speculation about whom the song written. Greg Lake has also said that the "you" referred to in "[Still...You Turn Me On](#)" may be a "literal person" or it could be about the demands of touring and how life on the road can be draining but performing is the ultimate high. The best verse of the song is, "Do you wanna be the lover of another. Undercover you could even be the man on the moon. Do you wanna be the player? Do you wanna be the string? Let me tell you something, it just don't mean a thing."

1. "[Karn Evil 9](#)": Called a futuristic fusion of rock and classical music, "Karn Evil 9" was included on the 1973 album *Brain Salad Surgery*. Written by Greg Lake, Peter Sinfield and Keith Emerson, the name "Karn Evil 9" is an interpretation of the word carnival. "[Karn Evil 9](#)" is broken down into three parts and when combined with the instrumental "Tarkus" the song is over 30 minutes long. The best verse of the song is, "Welcome back my friends to the show that never ends. We're so glad you could attend. Come inside! Come inside! There behind a glass is a real blade of grass be careful as you pass. Move along! Move along!"



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