



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Rock Royalty
RICK WAKEMAN
Returns to the US with a Solo Show Full of Music and Mirth

A promotional image for Rick Wakeman's tour. It features a large, curved graphic of a piano keyboard that arches across the top and middle of the image. Rick Wakeman is shown from the waist up, wearing a black leather trench coat and black pants, pointing his right index finger towards the keyboard. The background is black. Text is overlaid on the image: 'Rick Wakeman' in large teal letters, 'The Even Grumpier Old Rock Star Tour' in white script below it, and a block of text in teal and black at the bottom left.

Rick Wakeman
The Even Grumpier Old Rock Star Tour

**RICK RETURNS TO
AMERICA WITH
A NEW SHOW**

**OF GREAT SONGS,
OLD FAVORITES, STORIES
AND A LITTLE LAUGHTER!**

Keyboard wizard **Rick Wakeman** has two reasons to celebrate. First, his outstanding career in music has just been recognized by Queen Elizabeth II, who named him a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in her recent annual Birthday Honours.

And secondly, after 18 months of lockdown in the UK, he is finally able to announce the long-delayed follow-up to 2019's sell-out *The Grumpy Old Rock Star Tour* with - **The Even Grumpier Old Rock Star Tour!**

Having made his name creating prog rock extravaganzas, in his solo shows Wakeman returns to his roots with a programme packed with virtuosic piano performances and hilarious anecdotes, inspired by his 50-plus-year career. Repertoire will range from his solo works and his stints in the band YES through to his early days as a session musician playing keyboards on such classics as David Bowie's *Life On Mars*, plus surprises like his unique interpretations of Beatles' hits and many more memorable tunes, adapted for the grand piano. And all of this glorious music is punctuated by riotous reflections on his life and the people he's met along the way. As he himself often observes, life is rarely dull when Rick Wakeman is around!

The 24-city tour will kick-off on Thursday, October 14th in Derry, NH at the Tupelo Music Hall and continue through November. Tickets go on-sale starting Friday, June 25th, 10am local time. Check Rick Wakeman's website www.RWCC.com or the theatre's sites for specific on-sale information.

Professional musician, keyboard player, songwriter, broadcaster and raconteur, Wakeman's career started as a much-in-demand session player, who performed on recordings by David Bowie, Elton John, Lou Reed, Al Stewart and hundreds more artists. His big break came in 1971 when he joined YES, who went on to become the most successful prog rock band in the world, but Wakeman has also always gone his own way outside the framework of that group.

In the Seventies, he achieved chart-topping success with solo albums such as *Journey To The Centre Of The Earth*, *The Six Wives of Henry VIII* and *The Myths and Legends of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table*, which cumulatively sold over 10,000,000 copies in North America alone.

He has written several film scores, amongst them two for director Ken Russell (*Lisztomania* and *Crimes of Passion*) and two 'Harry Palmer' movies starring Michael Caine (*Bullet To Beijing* and *Midnight in St Petersburg*), and in the UK, has built up an impressive reputation as a witty guest and host on shows like *Grumpy Old Men*, *Countdown*, *Watchdog* and the comedy cabaret show *Live at Jongleurs*. His wickedly irreverent acceptance speech when YES was inducted in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2017 nearly brought the house down!

That same year, he made British chart history when his *Piano Portraits* record became the first solo piano instrumental album to enter the UK's Top 10 on release – a feat he then repeated 2018's *Piano Odyssey*. Both records feature tunes that have a special connection with Rick's

personal musical journey and his subsequent tours, in which he performs a selection of tracks accompanied by hilarious memories and anecdotes have been instant sell-outs in the UK.

Now the achievements of his incredible career have been officially recognized with a CBE in recognition of his services to music, so come and celebrate with him on his forthcoming tour. And don't worry – Rick will still find plenty of reasons to be grumpy...

Reviews from Rick Wakeman's Grumpy Old Rock Star US Tour 2019:

“A wonderfully intimate, hilarious, and jaw-dropping performance... Not a grumpy soul in the room, least of all Mr. Wakeman himself.”

– *Parklife DC*

“A dazzling display of dexterous fingerwork on the ivories.”

– www.vintagerock.com

Reviews from Rick Wakeman's UK solo tours:

“A hugely enjoyable night for fans and newcomers to Rick Wakeman. Genuine laughs and exquisite musicianship – what more can you ask for?”

– *Lancashire Telegraph*

“The audience... were thoroughly entertained with masterful piano playing and wonderful stories.”

– *Global Entertainment and Media*

“No other artist could entertain a theatre full of people, playing alone, and keep them riveted for the entirety of his set. Rick is one of the warmest, wittiest, most talented musicians around.”

– *Wolverhampton Express & Star*

“Prog lover or not, if you get the opportunity to see Rick Wakeman, go for it; he's a national treasure, and he'll make you laugh too.”

– *Bucks Herald*

“An inimitable mixture of dry humour and blinding talent”

– *East Anglian Daily News*

And from YES' 2017 induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame:

“Rick Wakeman's ornate, detailed keyboard work... was just the icing on the cake... Wakeman had already brought the house down with an acceptance speech that contained a hilarious stream of dirty jokes.” – *Rolling Stone*

RICK WAKEMAN

The Even Grumpier Old Rock Star Tour – North America 2021

October

- 14 Tupelo Music Hall, Derry NH
- 15 Academy of Music, Northampton MA
- 16 Garde Arts Center, New London CT
- 19 Narrows Center for the Arts, Fall River MA
- 22 The Paramount, Huntingdon NY
- 23 Concert Hall at the New York Society for Ethical Culture, NY, NY
- 24 The Birchmere, Alexandria VA
- 26 Asbury Hall, Buffalo NY
- 27 Wellmont Theatre, Montclair NJ
- 28 The Vogel @ Count Basie Center for the Arts, Red Bank NJ
- 29 Scottish Rite Auditorium, Collingswood NJ
- 30 Ridgefield Playhouse, Ridgefield CT

November

- 1 The Kent Stage, Kent OH
- 3 The Sheldon, St Louis MO
- 4 Copernicus Center Theater, Chicago IL
- 5 Pantages Theatre, Minneapolis MN
- 9 Celebrity Theatre, Phoenix AZ
- 11 Palace of Fine Arts Theatre, San Francisco CA
- 12 The Theatre at Ace Hotel, Los Angeles CA
- 13 Magnolia, El Cajon CA
- 15 Neptune Theatre, Seattle WA
- 17 Variety Playhouse, Atlanta GA
- 18 Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Amaturio Theater,
Fort Lauderdale FL
- 19 Nancy and David Bilheimer Capitol Theatre, Clearwater FL