

# **Atom Heart Mother**

**By**

**Scott Lawlor**

**Written by**

**Steve Sheppard**

On this glorious sunny day my thoughts are pulled back to the autumn of 1970, we gathered with expectation in the school yard to swap albums as a damp morning dew hung over the playing fields with an air of chilling expectancy, *Pink Floyd* had released a new album and everyone wanted it and couldn't wait to hear it, much was the way in this decade of opulence within music, this was the beginning of the reign of the grand king, progressive rock.

To this day I remember thinking to myself, why is there a cow on the cover of that album, but the music just blew everyone serious about rock music away, being a major *Emerson, Lake and Palmer* fan this would be the same in my case, and just as in the October of 1970 and the arrival of the album, much is the now the same some 49 years later, as I gaze out of my studio window, I watch the day come alive, and I'm listening to **Scott Lawlor's** very own twist on the masterpiece of **Atom Heart Mother**.

Lawlor has got it beautifully perfect; creating an album based on someone else's work is not about copying it verbatim, it's about manifesting something real, true to its source, but allowing your own expressions about the music to come forward to the listener, and that is exactly what the artist has done here. All the little nuances are here, the Tabla effects, the synths, the progressive based percussion and that every so addictive Floyd styled ethic, that use to take us eager listeners back in the day, on a journey without even knowing where we were going or, if we were even going to come back. Such were the days of Progressive Rock, it was a major sea change in music, a crossover from classical to rock and it mixed perfectly for some of us.

The mood and progression of Lawlor's version is extremely listenable and I am pretty sure that most **Pink Floyd** fans I know, and that's quite a few, will like what he has done here. For me listening to the organ and all those subtle little chord changes, the smoothness and transition of the overall composition is very well done indeed, for me I could easily be back in the early 70's and realising I need to add *Foxtrot* by *Genesis*, or *Trilogy* by *ELP* to the arm of my record player.

The other thing about this album is that it is so well done that I just drifted off in a purple haze (Wait that's another artist) and 20 minutes had passed before I even started to write this review, as I draw to my conclusion Lawlor's offering has just finished, and never has three quarters of an hour been that enjoyable for absolutely ages.

I would imagine that **Scott Lawlor** would have loved to have gone to *Abbey Road* where the original album was created, but nearly 50 years later he has produced something not just worthwhile, but an album that is accessible to all fans of prog rock and electronic music, and done so in a way that honours the original album, with an inspiring twist of genius along the way, thoroughly recommended indeed.