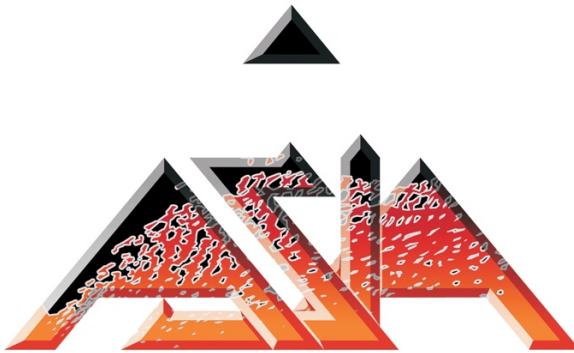


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 27, 2022



## ***ASIA with original members Carl Palmer & Geoff Downes Announces 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.***

ASIA, one of the greatest and best-loved supergroups to emerge during the 1980s is currently preparing for an extensive 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, due to kick off in summer 2022. Featuring founding members **Carl Palmer** (ELP, Crazy World of Arthur Brown) and **Geoff Downes** (Yes, The Buggles) the group will also include long time bassist/ vocalist **Billy Sherwood** (Yes) and newest member, guitarist/ lead vocalist **Marc Bonilla**, (Solo artist, Keith Emerson Band). The band is currently being booked for a US tour to start late summer this year.

"40 years of ASIA is a real musical milestone for us," says Geoff Downes. "The success we experienced with our early albums has carried us through and gave us the foundation when we reformed in 2006. ASIA has been together ever since, although we lost John in 2017 to cancer. Still, we have endured and will carry on now with Marc Bonilla, who we know will be a great addition to the band."



Guitarist and vocalist **Marc Bonilla** is ASIA's newest member. Bassist **Billy Sherwood** remains in the current line-up.

"The fans have never left ASIA," says drummer Carl Palmer. "That first ASIA album with all those radio and MTV hits weaved the fabric of the music scene in the early 1980s. Those great songs like 'Heat Of The Moment,' 'Sole Survivor,' and 'Only Time Will Tell,' still hold up today. When we play those songs and our other hits, we can see the entire audience singing along."

In December the multi-platinum selling English supergroup released its most ambitious collection to date: a 10-CD boxset ***The Official Live Bootlegs Volume 1***. Issued through BMG Records on December 3<sup>rd</sup>., the expansive set chronicles five complete performances of the original line-up captured between 1982 and 2010. The collection celebrates the huge appeal of the concert tours that followed ASIA's first two albums in 1982 and 1983. The success continued following ASIA's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion in 2006 and three more highly acclaimed albums. The slipcase boxset features 5 x 2CD concerts from 1982 (Buffalo, NY, USA), 1983 (Worcester, MA, USA), 2007 (São Paulo, Brazil), 2008 (Tokyo, Japan) and 2010 (London, UK). The bootleg collection follows a previous 5 CD box set of studio recordings released in April, 2021.

**ABOUT ASIA:** **Geoff Downes** (The Buggles, Yes, keyboards), **Steve Howe** (Yes, guitars), **Carl Palmer** (Emerson, Lake & Palmer, drums) and **John Wetton** (King Crimson, UK, bass/vocals), took the world by storm with their eponymous debut album, globally the biggest-selling album of 1982, and the single *Heat Of The Moment*. **ASIA** was a true 'supergroup' pooling the talents of its four members who had already amassed tens of millions of record sales with their collective bands of the 70s. Leaving behind their progressive roots, ASIA embraced the commercial FM rock sound that dominated US airwaves and took that, and the new MTV video channel, by storm. The single *Heat Of The Moment* was a world-wide monster smash and their eponymous 1982 debut album spent an incredible 9 weeks at No. 1 on the Billboard chart as *ASIA* became the biggest selling album of the year and world tour dates sold out.

A second album, *Alpha*, was released in 1983, followed by *Astra* in 1985. The four original members reconvened in 2006 for a world tour, to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that incredible success, and the album *Phoenix* followed. While the members were still heavily involved in other projects, they came together again to record *Omega* in 2010 and *XXX* in 2012, both albums were acclaimed by their faithful fans and supported by more world tours. Steve Howe stepped back from ASIA to concentrate on his work with Yes and was absent for 2014's *Gravitas*. Following this tour came the news of John Wetton's treatment for cancer, a fight he sadly lost in 2017. Asia was special guest of Journey for an extensive US tour in 2017, and in 2019 the band toured with Yes within the Royal Affair tour.

"We are planning an extensive tour to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup>," adds Downes, "and the music will feature all the hits the fans have embraced. Stay tuned! It will be show you won't want to miss."

**ASIA THE OFFICIAL LIVE BOOTLEGS – VOLUME 1**  
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