

SEQUENCES SPECIAL EDITION

**VoLt: Michael Shipway:
Steve Smith & Tylas Cyndrone: Lamp**

Hi-Fi

**Michael Shipway and Steve Smith musical journey began when met for the first time
in the Eighties deciding to write and record songs together, with the band Hi-Fi.**



My first trip to Holland to the 1992 Klemdag Festival with Michael & Clive, on the Seacat. Michael was looking cool, how the devil did he keep the hair on?



Okay! I'm a grandfather, if you keep pointing, you know where this knife is going.



And you thought we were only beer drinkers, cheers!

Musicians Michael Shipway & Steve Smith have been my good friends for many years now, with our passion for electronic music and, of course, the amber nectar, regularly consumed by all, which didn't go unnoticed with our European counterparts in the music scene and as you can see it takes centre stage in most of the photos.

I first met and introduced myself to Mike, would you believe it, in Dover's Ferry Terminal men's powder room (posh it wasn't); shortly afterwards, shaking hands with Steve before boarding the ferry with musician Michael Neil, Clive Littlewood (Electronical Dreams) & photographer Gary Andrews, with me being the designated driver for our trip to a Klemdag E.M. festival in Breda, Holland in 1992, John Dyson, Peter Mergener & Mind Over Matter were the acts appearing.

This was one of several channel crossings I made before the tunnel was built with various friends, sometimes transporting their gear; Andy Pickford & Mark Jenkins come to mind, who played in Holland.

Mike was not a good sailor, and I remember, on that first trip, it was a rough crossing on a sizeable 80-car Seacat catamaran, quite scary. Even on the bigger ships, when we joined up to travel together, he was unsettled and glad to get back on terra firma.

It was after many years of running Sequences audio cassettes/magazines with stands at various events that I started my friendship with Mike & Steve for the journeys to festivals in the UK, Holland, Germany & Belgium. Mike, at the wheel, didn't like being a back seat driver, but slow he wasn't. We made numerous visits with one notable fan and now a musician, Phil Booth, who joined us regularly, especially for the European gigs. In 2014 I emigrated to Australia after my wife passed away in 2012 to join my only daughter and son-in-law, who were living there.

I have returned to the UK to see family and friends a couple of times for a holiday and met up with Mike, Steve and other music followers at various festivals. Being on the other side of the world, I miss the company of all the friends I made throughout those years, especially in the European scene that gave me long-lasting memories. The only consolation is publishing Sequences Podcasts regularly from here, which keeps me in touch with fans, friends & musicians from around the globe.

Sadly, we lost Steve after his long fight with cancer. He passed away in December 2022; he was a great friend, we had good times together, never to be forgotten.

Mick The ED



Carl Jenkinson Co editor for Sequences Magazines, we were just good friends, nothing else.



Needed glasses for closer inspection of the good stuff.



Phil Booth with our favourite beer you could drink all day

VoLt

Michael Shipway and Steve Smith met for the first time in the 80s and decided to write and record songs together, which bore fruit with the band Hi-Fi. In 1985, Mike wrote an article in an issue of the "Electronic Soundmaker and Computer Music" magazine showing how to construct a sampler that would work with a Sinclair Spectrum. Although he created the sampler, he invited Steve to form a duo called "Artificial Intelligence" that would use the sampler to create some tracks, either originals or covers, to impress the magazine... They replied, saying they liked the music but would also like to make a project of the sampler! he agreed, and with the magazine advertising, it sold quite a few worldwide — manufactured in Mike's garage at home



Michael sent a demo of songs he had done in the electronic music genre to the record label Surreal to Real, founded in 1989 by John Dyson & Anthony Thrasher. Lo and behold, they liked it, and three albums were produced. After this period of album releases, Michael was striving to write his fourth album, and Steve Smith was away doing other band projects. It occurred to Michael that they had never actually tried to play music live and spontaneously with no prior arranging. Everything was carefully prepared and recorded on computers and edited to achieve the required result they wanted.

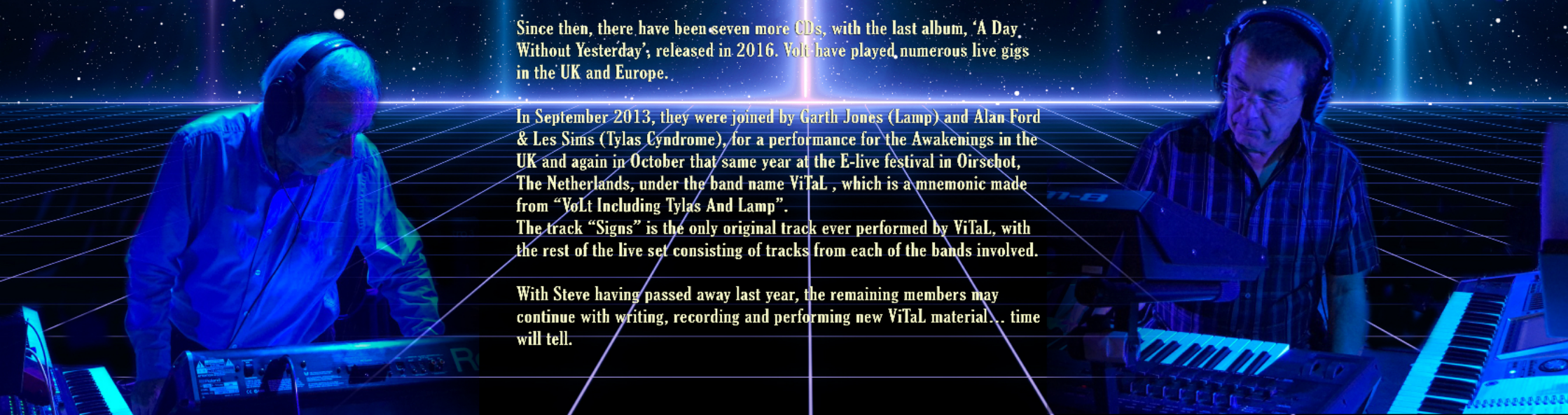
It was agreed that Mike and Steve would try some sessions playing live in the studio with no pre-planned ideas except for some programmed sequencers. The outcome of three recorded sessions was 'The Far Canal', with VoLt emerging as the band's name, under the pseudonyms of Stefan Schmidt & Brian Raymond. Many promo copies were sent out to various music outlets, and it had its official release on the Dutch label Groove in 2003.

Since then, there have been seven more CDs, with the last album, 'A Day Without Yesterday', released in 2016. VoLt have played numerous live gigs in the UK and Europe.

In September 2013, they were joined by Garth Jones (Lamp) and Alan Ford & Les Sims (Tylas Cyndrome), for a performance for the Awakenings in the UK and again in October that same year at the E-live festival in Oirschot, The Netherlands, under the band name ViTaL, which is a mnemonic made from "VoLt Including Tylas And Lamp".

The track "Signs" is the only original track ever performed by ViTaL, with the rest of the live set consisting of tracks from each of the bands involved.

With Steve having passed away last year, the remaining members may continue with writing, recording and performing new ViTaL material... time will tell.



Michael Shipway



Mike Shipway first got involved in making music in the late 70s. He released his debut album 'Into Battle' on cassette in 1990 on his own label MSL Music and re-released on CD in 1994 by 'Surreal to Real', but only after he agreed to play it live at the UK Electronica festival in Sheffield. This was followed by two more albums, 'Beneath Folly' 1992 & 'Spirit Of Adventure' 1995 for 'Surreal' with a live schedule that saw several performances until 1996. Due to his day job in IT, he was needed on a project in California and did not return until 1998! During this time, the 'Surreal' label ceased trading, so Mike started looking for something new.

In 2011, he released 'Voyage To Venus', featuring ten tracks inspired by the Dan Dare adventure. The album also includes dialogue from the BBC radio broadcast of 1990 and a 12-page booklet with illustrations from the original comic strip.



Michael Shipway: "Working on the Dan Dare album, where I used dialogue from the BBC Radio broadcast of the story, made me realise that I was very interested in putting music to it. Creating music that can be happy, sad, violent, peaceful, etc., to represent particular scenes in a story was an exciting challenge, and once the album was completed, I wanted to do more".

Around that time, speaking to a friend who runs a Science fiction-based Creative Writing and role-playing website (New Worlds Project). He mentioned that he was looking for a soundtrack to stream to his subscribers as they participate in their New Worlds adventures. Together, they agreed on several scenarios relating to the different worlds, peoples and situations that occur in New Worlds and that Mike would write an orchestral soundtrack for each of them... the result being 13 tracks totalling around an hour of new music."



In October 2015, John Dyson was joined by Paul Ward & Michael Shipway on stage to appear at the Electronic Circus in Germany, with Paul & Mike doing one solo spot each.

Mike recently performed live on AD Music's Beyond the Airways with one new track called 'New 103BPM'



Steve Smith & The Tylas Cyndrome

- Tylas Cyndrome originally formed when the members were teenagers. Armed with good intentions, guitars, percussion and an Akai 4000DS 4 track tape recorder, they learned to play and compose their music. All three dreamed of one day recording an album of their music, but life moved on, and they went their separate ways. With Alan Ford and Les Sims placing their creative talent into suspended animation, Steve Smith continued to play with vocal bands such as Split Image, HiFi and Mojo. Steve has also experienced success within the EM (Electronic Music) community in Europe as one half of VoLt - specialising in the 'Berlin School' style.

Fast forward to 2008, and a chance encounter resulted in the band members meeting again for the first time in 35 years. Steve played a few EM ideas he'd been working on and asked for feedback. Les and Alan became involved in the project and added their contributions. In 2011 the reformed Tylas Cyndrome released the album 'Phoenix Arising' on the Dutch 'Groove Unlimited' label. Then, in October 2013, a second album... 'Pools of Diversity' coincides with the band's appearance in Holland at the E-Live festival.



Lamp

Lamp was a collaboration of Michael Shipway and guitarist/friend Garth Jones. Michael and Garth were actually former work colleagues. After several studio and live sessions, they agreed that combining Garth's melodic guitar with Michael's synthesiser soundscapes would be appreciated within and beyond the EM community. They produced their first album 'Three Towers' in 2012 with the follow-up 'Scales Of Fortune' in 2014, again on the Groove label.



VoLt

Volt 'The Far Canal Part 2'
Volt 'First Contact'
Volt 'Through The Rings'
Volt 'Explosion Part 1'
Volt 'Atavistic'
Volt 'Circuits'
Volt 'Fermion'
Volt 'Distant Union'
Volt 'Awakenings Live'
Volt 'Escaping The Dark Matter'

(album The Far Canal) 2003
(album Star Compass) 2004
(album Through The Rings) 2005
(album Nucleosynthesis) 2007
(album HJVI) 2008
(album Circuits) 2012
(album Particles) 2013
(album A Day Without Yesterday) 2016
(Awakenings) 2018 ***
(Sequences Special 100th edition) 2016

PLAYLIST



ARTificial INtelligence

'Finest Hour/The Cause' (album ARTillery) 1998

Michael Shipway

Michael Shipway 'Ritual'
Michael Shipway 'Arrival'
Michael Shipway 'Jamjar'
Michael Shipway 'Silicon Mass'
John Dyson & Michael Shipway 'Ride The Beach'
Michael Shipway 'Main Theme/Mysterious Beyond'
Michael Shipway 'A Dream Of Arumshade'
Michael Shipway & Steve Smith 'The Nova Towers PT3'
Michael Shipway 'New 103BPM'

(album Into Battle) 1990
(album Beneath Folly) 1992
(album Spirit Of Adventure) 1995
(album Voyage To Venus) 2011
(album E-Scape 2015)
(New Worlds Project)
(The Bungay Bash 2) 2012
(Sequences Magazine no 27) 2002
(Live at Beyond The Airways) 2023

Steve Smith & The Tylas Cyndrone

Steve Smith & The Tylas Cyndrone 'Phoenix Arising'
Steve Smith & The Tylas Cyndrone 'The Main Event'
Robin Banks & Steve Smith 'Space & Time'

(album Phoenix Rising) 2011
(album Pools Of Diversity) 2013
(album Stealing Time) 2017

Lamp

Lamp 'Calamity'
Lamp 'The Tower Of Breganze'

(album Scales Of Fortune) *** 2014
(album Three Towers) 2012

ViTaL = VoLt Including Tylas And Lamp.

'Signs' (E-live 2013)



VoLt, Lamp, Steve Smith & Tylas Cyndrone & Michael Shipway (except Spirit Of Adventure: http://mslmusic.co.uk/MSL_Shop.html) CD albums available from
Groove Unlimited: <https://www.groove.nl/shop/?v=6cc98ba2045f>