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July 20, 2023

Guitare en Scène
Route de Genève
Saint-Julien-en-Genevois, France 74160

Dear Ms. Benoit-Guyot, Mr. Maganto, and Guitar en Scène Festival leadership,

I am writing on behalf of Gregg Rolie, founding member of “Journey” and “Santana” and most recently a touring member of Ringo Starr’s All Star Band.

Mr. Rolie is quite concerned over the deceptive marketing, misuse and intentional misappropriation of his name and likeness, and misleading announcement and ticketing that purported to promote an exclusive “Journey” appearance, after 15 years of absence from the European market under the name “Journey Through Time”.

Mr. Rolie and his team, at the request of Neal Schon had made contact well in advance of your inaccurate marketing with Francisco Maganto, who was identified as your authorized agent, and designated promoter and talent booker. Ms. Benoit-Guyot has confirmed that Mr. Maganto at the time had such authorities. On or before June 12, 2023, Mr. Rolie and his team had made it abundantly clear to Mr. Schon, Mrs. Schon, and all involved in the process, that he would not participate in an event due to a number of concerns including the risk of deceiving fans, not fairly paying other working musicians, and an improperly released album sharing the same title “Journey Through Time”.

Mr. Rolie remains concerned that Mr. Schon is furthering the promotion of a Live Album & DVD Neal Schon released via Frontier records without obtaining appropriate licenses or permissions of the performing artists and songwriters/music publishing owners, and without remuneration to the artists, or the intended beneficiary, a California wildfire victims relief fund, of the recorded 2018 event.

Mr. Rolie, sent notice that he would not grant permissions for the performance of his multitude of works. As the last of the remaining songwriters and original band members to have not sold off their rights he continues to own his catalog, and intends to protect those works, the legacy and brand of “Journey,” or his name and likeness from being used to harm or divide others. Aware of the already acrimonious and fractured relationship among Journey’s remaining principals, Mr. Rolie, believes he, and they, have a duty to their fans and legacy to unite and further the band’s division with acts of individual greed.

Following reports that the festival had sold tickets as “Journey” and infringed on many of Mr. Rolie’s personality rights (and Journey’s), upon review of a cease-and-desist letter, the festival agreed to remove Mr. Rolie from the marketing, and apologized to him, but continued to sell tickets to unsuspecting fans as “Journey.”

Ultimately, we understand that the festival, after paying Mr. Schon at least \$100,000, canceled the promoted event. Fans were asked via Instagram to hold the bag and “support the festival” by not seeking refunds, and to still pay for all nights even in the absence of a replacement headliner as marketed. They were instead, redirected in a post to “the link in bio,” which does not indicate any form of refund. We have attached exhibits of examples of this.

With reports of the resulting hardship to fans who fell victim to the deceptive marketing and misrepresentations, Mr. Rolie had offered his help in mitigating the impact to fans, himself, the other artists, and the active touring members of “Journey,” Mr. Schon failed to include (Jonathan Cain & Arnel Pineda).

The festival, via Ms. Benoit-Guyot, assured us and falsely reported that it had presented the plan to headlining artist, Sting, and that Sting’s team and the promoter Live Nation were non-responsive. She also committed to addressing concerns regarding fan refunds:

“We are not getting any response on this request. I think we’ll have to leave it there for this year. At this stage the tickets for the Sting concert are practically sold out, so we would not be able to recuperate any extras expenses through ticket sales.”

Upon it being discovered that Sting’s team had received none of the aforementioned communications the festival claimed to have sent and had no awareness of the issues, the festival declined to provide further plans to support fans who were shorted an evening they had paid for, stating that “If anyone suffered harm, it is us (the festival).”

In an effort to prevent the catastrophic bad will seen with other festivals that had similar issues relating to Artist marketing, such as the Fyre Festival, and as part of our ongoing enforcement actions relating to the misappropriated works relating to Frontier Records, Mr. Rolie has requested that I again formally reserve his and their fan’s rights. In the interest of time, ahead of selection of local counsel in France, he is appealing to LGES Festival’s owners and sponsors to take true efforts to refund the monies WITH EASE that they collected for the 2nd night in which “Journey Through Time” was billed as the sole headliner, and tickets were sold as “Journey”.

He is also asking for the organizers and promoters involved in this plot to transparently cooperate in identifying those who took part in a deceptive scheme to bilk already grift fatigued music fans, and for you to disclose the number of tickets sold, and number of refunds requested and fulfilled.

In order for music to play on forever, it is critical that artists and songwriters rights be protected, and that all members of the community look out for one another, and most importantly, for the loyal fans who sacrifice to experience music in "just the same way" they once had.

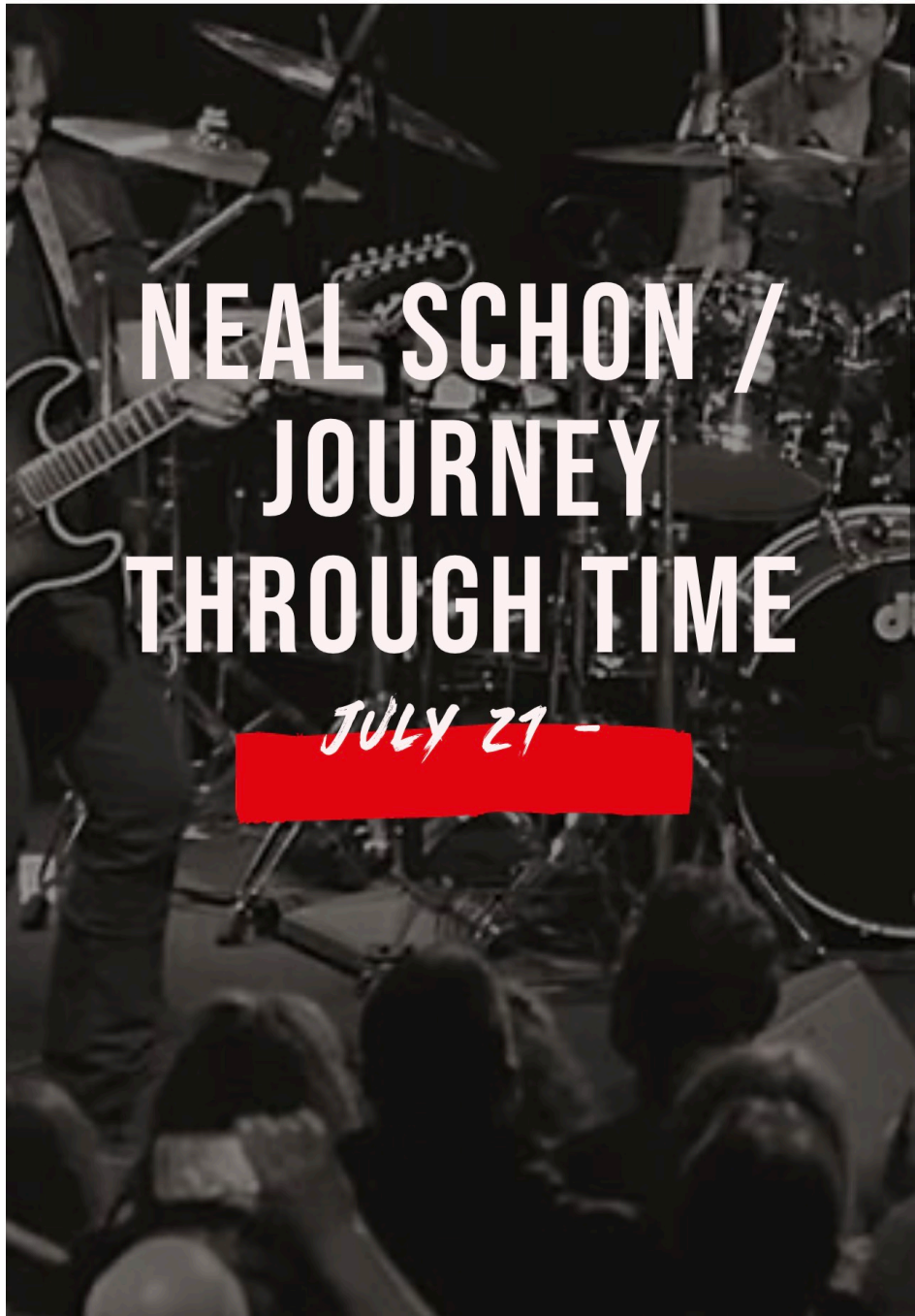
Mr. Rolie, and his team remain available to work to limit the impact created by this deceptive and greedy act at the expense of his, and apparently Journey's good name, and the many fans hard earned money, and... time.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:



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Gary Stiffelman



Marquee Scene

< BACK TO PROGRAMMING



EUROPEAN EXCLUSIVE

You're not dreaming, Neal Schon/JOURNEY *thoughtime* are going to perform at Guitare en Scène exclusively in Europe!

Among the greatest American rock bands, they will be present to make you experience an exceptional moment of nostalgia. The two founding members of the group, Neal Schon and Gregg Rolie, respectively solo guitarist and keyboardist/singer, arrive in Saint-Julien-en-Genevois after 15 years of absence in Europe for a unique date!

As an ode to their greatest successes, Neal Schon has imagined an event tour, "Journey through time". In their current composition, he will be accompanied by Gregg Rolie as well as Deen Castronovo, Marco Mendoza and John Varn. Something to rekindle the burning flame of the group's big fans.

Get ready to sing titles like "Don't stop believin'", "Separate ways (worlds apart)" or "Who's crying now". It's going to be hot!

> JEUDI 20/07 - JOE BONAMASSA/ERIC
GALES/JOSS STONE

✓ VENDREDI 21/07 - JOURNEY/GES ALL
STAR BAND/JELUSICK

TARIF	PRIX	QUANTITÉ
VENDREDI - GRADINS ASSIS - PLACEMENT LIBRE 	100,00 €	0 
VENDREDI - PLACE DEBOUT 	80,00 €	0 
VENDREDI - PLACE DEBOUT JEUNES ET ETUDIANTS 	50,00 €	0 

> SAMEDI 22/07 - STING/VINTAGE
TROUBLE/NIK WEST

> DIMANCHE 23/07 - PORCUPINE
TREE/MAGMA/WISHBONE ASH

TOTAL (TTC) 0,00 €

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 Français ▾



June 23 · See translation



festivalguitarenszene



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festivalguitarenszene ANNULATION CONCERT NEAL SCHON / JOURNEY THROUGH TIME ❌

Unfortunately for reasons beyond our will we have to cancel the NEAL SCHON/ JOURNEY THROUGH TIME show on Friday July 21st. One month away from the Guitar en Scene festival, the adventure is full of twists and turns for this 2023 edition, so let's twist together again! 🤝

See you at 17:00 for some good news! 😁🔥

#StayTuned 🙌



1:13

5Gw



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21 JUILLET 2023

KO KO MO



52 likes

festivalguitareenscene Terribly rock, terribly in the age of time, @thisiskokomo hits the Guitar Stage on Friday, July 21! 🎸

You can't escape the KO MO effect! An explosive duo able to easily seduce rock fans of all generations. 🙌 KO KO MO, it's both something very 70's but also undeniably current music. With Warren on vocals and guitar, and Kevin on drums and choirs, their energy promises to transcend the festival. 🔥

Since the release of their first EP in 2014, the Nantais band has performed in France and internationally: South Korea, Japan, Australia, Netherlands... even at the other side of the world, Warren's powerful vocals and K20's devilish beats are still echoing through Nantes.

In 2022, it's the third album coming out for KO KO MO and we can't wait to hear it! 🔥

Due to a change in scheduling, ticket prices for this evening are changing. Happening July 21 are you coming? 🙌 link in bio.

For all ticket holders of this originally scheduled evening with Neal Schon / Journey through Time, find your options on our website 🙌 link in bio.

View all 2 comments

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