

magenta

biography



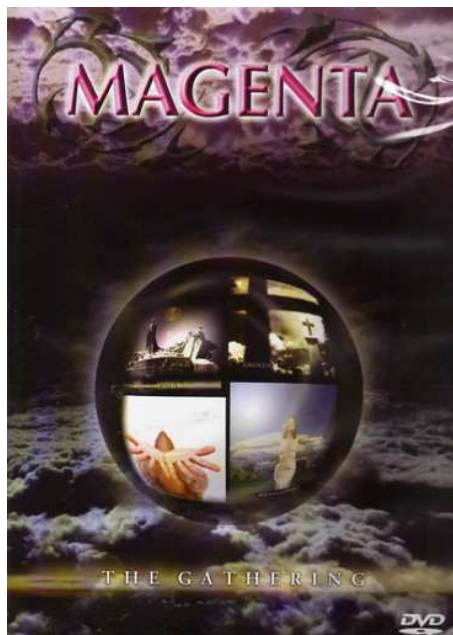
When Rob Reed released **Revolutions** in 2001 under the banner "Magenta" little did he realise that he had started something that would take on a life of its own....

Revolutions was originally created as a studio-only project. Built around four long pieces of music, with lyrics based on the concept of Faith by his brother Steve, Rob played most of the instruments himself, with guest appearances from Andy Edwards, Martin Shellard and Chris Fry on lead guitar, later to become a permanent band member. The masterstroke was bringing in Christina on lead vocals, who had previously played with Rob in the band Trippa, as well as appearing on several recordings by Rob's Progressive Rock project Cyan. The album, which took its musical inspiration from many of Rob's heroes such as Yes, Genesis and Marillion, was released to wide acclaim

This gave Rob a problem. The success of **Revolutions** led to public demand for live shows, something that Rob had not envisaged. However, gathering a live band around himself and Christina, he soon realised that with some deft arranging, the album could be played in concert with considerable success. This they proved in their first live shows, including the prestigious Mexican festival Baja Prog in 2003, where they were the only UK band to be invited that year. The Band followed this up by playing throughout the UK and Europe in 2003, including an appearance at the Progny festival at the Astoria in London later that year, alongside Pallas, IQ and Mostly Autumn.

In March 2004, the band released their second album **Seven**, a single CD this time, with lyrics again by Steve Reed, giving an unusual slant on the seven deadly sins. Once again, the album was an instant success, winning the "Best Album" award from Poland's "Metal Hammer" magazine. "Gluttony" had already become a live favourite, and several other pieces from the album joined the live set, including the infectious "Pride". The band also released its first single, **Broken**, featuring the complete live band and lyrics by Christina. More prestigious concerts followed, including a first headlining appearance at the Classic Rock Society in Rotherham, UK.

The end of 2004 saw the momentum continuing to build, with the release of a double live album **Another Time, Another Place** – winner of best live album by the Hungarian Progressive Rock Society - and another single **I'm Alive**, which quickly became another concert favourite. As well as playing with IQ at the Classic Rock Society Awards at the end of the year, Christina won best vocalist and the band best live gig at the ceremony itself. Press interest in the band continued to increase with several items in Classic Rock magazine during the year, and the band made another appearance at Progny, this time with Fish and Carl Palmer.



2005 was another great year for the band. The recording of the band's first live DVD quickly followed a headline appearance at the Rosfest festival in Philadelphia, USA. At both concerts, the band premiered songs from the forthcoming album **Home** and more live performances followed throughout the year, with the band playing **Seven** in its entirety in London and Rotherham in October, as well as further tracks from **Home**. The band's reputation continued to increase as an entertaining, dynamic live act, with fans travelling to UK gigs from as far away as Italy, Russia, Hungary, Peru, USA, Canada and New Zealand.

The year finished with the triumphant release of **The Gathering** DVD and the prize of Best Band at the Classic Rock Society end of year awards ceremony.

More live concerts followed in early 2006, including their first trips to Portugal and Norway. The band released their third album **Home** in June 2006 as a limited edition with special additional disc **New York Suite**. This was a concept piece and telling the story of a woman who emigrates from Liverpool in the early 1970s to "find herself" in the USA. Musically, **Home** represented a further development for the band, combining the Magenta sound established on the first two albums with a more direct, song-orientated, emotional approach. The album also marked Christina's finest vocal performance with the band to date and included a guest appearance by Troy Donockley on Uilleann pipes and whistles..



At time of writing, the band will shortly release **Night and Day** a single written by Rob and Christina for the legendary Annie Haslam, formerly of 70s band Renaissance. The song features a lead vocal by Annie backed by the full Magenta live band.

With work on the next Magenta album already under way, Times have never been busier for Magenta – the true colour of progressive rock.



Discography:

Revolutions (double album 2001)
Seven (album 2004)
Broken (single 2004)
I'm Alive (single 2004)
Another Time Another Place (Double live album 2004)
The Gathering (DVD - 2005)
Home (album 2006)
Night and day with Annie Haslam (single 2006)

The band: Rob Reed: Keyboards, guitar, vocals, bass, recorders

Christina: Lead vocals

Chris Fry: guitar

Martin Rosser: guitar

Daniel Fry: bass

Allan Mason-Jones: Drums