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Procol Harum to Release First Studio Album in 14 Years, "Novum," in April



Eagle Records

Procol Harum is set to release its first studio album in 14 years, *Novum*, on April 21. The record will arrive nearly 50 years after the May 1967 release of the pioneering British prog-rock group's debut single and signature tune, "Whiter Shade of Pale."

Founding Procol Harum frontman **Gary Brooker** tells ABC Radio that his band's 50th anniversary was a motivating factor in making the new album. He notes that contemplating his long history with the band led to "a reawakening in my own head... 'we're still here -- we better give people something a bit more special.'"

Novum features 11 original songs that, for the most part, were written collaboratively by Procol Harum's members, while most of the lyrics were penned by longtime **Cream** and **Jack Bruce** collaborator **Peter Brown**.

Brooker is the only original Procol Harum member in the group's current lineup, which has been in place for more than 10 years. Rounding out the band are bassist **Matt Pegg**, drummer **Geoff Dunn**, guitarist **Geoff Whitehorn** and Hammond organ player **Josh Phillips**.

Asked whether the band's new music is reminiscent of its trademark classical-influenced sound, Brooker tells ABC Radio, "We actually are rather looking forward to moving forward." The singer/pianist points out that while his band mates initially focused on playing the group's songs the way the original Procol Harum performed them, "[n]ow they all play how they play, and it's been a true awakening for me."

He adds, with a laugh, "I didn't know they were that good."

The first single from *Novum*, a song called "Sunday Morning," will be released on April 7.

Prior to that, Procol Harum will launch a [50th anniversary tour](#) with a special symphonic show on March 2 at the Royal Festival Hall in London.

Here the track list of *Novum*:

- "I Told on You"
- "Last Chance Motel"
- "Image of the Beast"
- "Soldier"
- "Don't Get Caught"
- "Neighbour"
- "Sunday Morning"
- "Businessman"
- "Can't Say That"
- "The Only One"
- "Somewhen"