King Crimson - Pandemonium (1969)

Live In London, BBC, May 6th, 1969 *1 In The Court Of The Crimson King 5:18* Live At Plumpton Festival, August 9th, 1969
2 21st Century Schizoid Man 6:53 3 Get Thy Bearings 10:33 4 Devil's Triangle 6:55 5 Crimson Blues 15:33 6 In The Court Of The Crimson King 5:15
Bass Guitar, Lead Vocals – Greg Lake Drums, Percussion, Vocals – Michael Giles Lead Guitar – Robert Fripp Mellotron, Keyboards, Saxophone, Flute, Vibraphone [Vibes], Vocals – Ian McDonald

For King Crimson’s appearance at the 9th National Jazz, Pop, Ballads & Blues Festival, the band were placed low down on the bill with Idle Race, Dry Ice and Groundhogs, and situated in a tent well away from the main stage. “Can I tell why we played there?” Fripp explained to Vic Garbarini in 1981, “The agency that booked it hadn't been completely straight with us, so we said, you're no longer our agents. So instead of putting us on front stage -where we'd wipe out anything they had- they stuck us in the tent, so we wouldn't touch anyone. It was a deliberate agency move to fuck up our careers.”

Captured in this audience recording, the incendiary rendition of 21st Century Schizoid Man opening the show suggests that Fripp’s assertion that Crimso would wipe out anyone else is pretty much on the mark. Aside from the shock and awe of the bone-crunching opening, the fiery details in the ensuing piece are really unlike any other of the rock acts appearing that day. The telepathic qualities between the Giles and Lake are quite extraordinary. Check out the audacious slow-down in tempo under Fripp’s solo. Just as it seems they’re about to grind to a halt, the pair take off again, adding to the drama underneath Fripp’s angular workout, ahead of the transition to Ian McDonald’s frenzied burst. ---ftp.king-crimson.com

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