

Magazine Article from the Portfolio of  
Wheat Williams

“Prog Day ‘97”. Wheat Williams. *Keyboard*,  
December 1997, p. 16.

Report on the Chapel Hill, NC  
underground progressive rock festival.

**PROG DAY '97.** Correspondent Wheat Williams attended the recent Prog Day festival in North Carolina, and filed this report: "Every Labor Day weekend for the past three years, a rift opened in cyberspace and fans from across the globe spilled onto a beautiful green lawn in Chapel Hill, North Carolina for the two-day Prog Day festival. This year 250 fans came to see 11 bands, many with keyboards at the fore. In the prog-jazz-fusion improvisation category were Kentucky's **French TV**, with **John Robinson** on keys; Athens, Georgia's **Volaré**, with **Patrick Strawser** on Rhodes and analog synths; and Genoa, Italy's **Finistere**, featuring **Boris Valle**. Next was the epic, anthemic vocal category. Japan's **Providence**, lead by keyboardist **Tsukada Madoka**, featured a metal influence and beautiful operatic vocals, in Japanese, from soprano **Sugawara Takako**. Ranging from majestic and mythical to cheesy (I'll let you decide) were Nashville's **Salem Hill**, lead by **Carl Groves** on vocals, keyboards, and guitar; Chattanooga, Tennessee's **Glass Hammer** (who also have a techno project called **TMA-2**) led by keyboardist **Fred Schendel**; and Connecticut's **After the Fall**, with **Ken Archer** in the John Paul Jones/Emerson position. Last up was the dark, gothic Michigan band **Discipline**, whose long-form epics are led by the decadent philosophy and punk snarl of singer, keyboardist and multi-instrumentalist **Matthew Parmenter**. Not wanting to close on a low note, the festival-goers ended in the dark of the evening with an international, unplugged, all-star family sing-along of **Genesis**' 'I Know What I Like (In Your Wardrobe)'. For more information on the event and all the bands, visit [www.hrzd.com/progday/](http://www.hrzd.com/progday/). . . The Yes World Web site ([www.yesworld.com](http://www.yesworld.com)) reports that two new members have been added to the band: guitarist **Billy Sherwood** and keyboardist **Igor "Ivan" Khoroshev**. *Keys to Ascension II* will be released this fall on Cleopatra Records' Purple Pyramid label in the U.S., and by Castle Communications elsewhere. The album will contain new songs as well as more live tracks from last year's San Luis Obispo, California gigs.

**NET NOTES.** Songwriters can now download PA and SR copyright forms directly from the Library of Congress at <http://lcweb.loc.gov/copyright/>. (Thanks to Lenny, who emailed us the tip.) . . . Scott Hettrick of *The Hollywood Reporter* reports that "less than three months after Liquid Audio introduced a system to deliver music singles over