

## **Fusion Festival - Panne Eichel Closing Set 2023**

Date: Monday July 3rd, 21:00

Location: Fusion Festival, Panne Eichel stage

Performer/Author: Chris Lloyd (1781 Collective)

Theme: *'Fusionism' - A New Religion*

### **Introduction:**

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today to celebrate this thing called LIFE.

We stand here today on hallowed ground, at the end of an epic journey of hedonism and excess. We have all witnessed something truly incredible over the past few days - the creation of an energy so tactile and palpable, that has literally resonated through every cell in our bodies.

To celebrate this, I want to bring us together in this final moment - and so I propose to you that together we form and instigate the dawn of a NEW RELIGION. One that will only exist for the next 45 minutes, but will invite every single person here today into a collective union. Our religion will be called Fusionism, and we are the Fusionites, and our belief system today is based on LIFE. Come with me on a journey through the Five Pillars of Worship, the Five Elements of Fusionism - experienced and explored through music; lived and loved together.

### **Pillar I: The Temple**

The first Pillar and Piece is dedicated to GRANDEUR. Let us spend these next minutes in worship of the temple that is this vast home we call Fusion. A gargantuan complex that has witnessed hundreds of thousands of individual stories over the past years - and we too, have now become a part of this grand narrative. This remarkable palace is the temple where we come to celebrate humanity, pleasure, joy, ecstasy, and festivity. Pay homage for the next four minutes to the space that surrounds you as we worship at the Temple of Fusionism.

*Play: Georges Enescu, Prelude from Piano Suite No. 1, Op 3 (3 mins)*

### **Pillar II: Kindness**

Having worshipped at the Temple, it is now time to identify and give thanks to the three key Elemental Mysteries. The first - and most important - of the Three Mysteries is simple: *kindness*. One of the easiest and gentlest ways of showing care and love, to friend and stranger (Freund und Fremd) alike. For the next five minutes, let us revel in the Mystery of Kindness - recall the moments this past week that you have been shown kindness, or that you were kind to others; the eternal giving and receiving that is the **best** part of humanity - and let us pay thanks to this simple element of life that energises the world.

*Play: Maurice Ravel - Pavane pour une infante défunte (5 mins)*

### **Pillar III: Forgiveness, or the Absolution of Sins.**

The Second Elemental Mystery of Fusionism is facilitated for us by Franz Schubert - who understood the complexity and frailty of humanity like no other - and for which we appoint him Messiah for our idolisation. In almost every work, He offers us space to examine the entirety of the human experience within the confines of a single piece of music - He illustrates the challenges and flaws we face, and then offers us a way to process and persevere through these moments. Pillar 3 is therefore our confessional, for the absolution of sins. Use this next piece to process your journey - particularly those harder moments that have challenged you; when you perhaps have been flawed, and allow this piece to offer you forgiveness for these moments. If necessary, allow this piece to strengthen you to ask for forgiveness from those you may have accidentally wronged - and importantly, to offer forgiveness to those who have unintentionally wronged you. We are not perfect beings, we do not pretend to be - but let this next piece assist in our salvation and the cleansing of any guilt. We are flawed creatures, with the best intentions, and it is time to forgive ourselves and our brethren.

*Play: Franz Schubert - Impromptu in F minor, D. 935 No. 1 (10 mins)*

### **Pillar IV: Ecstasy**

It is nearly time for release. We have worshipped at the Temple, and meditated on the first two Elemental Mysteries of Fusionism in Kindness and Forgiveness. The Third Elemental Mystery of Fusionism is the Embrace of Ecstasy - a celebration of life, and survival, and pleasure, and joy. The accompanying piece of music is exactly this - and therefore, when this piece finishes, at the climactic final chords, I want you to release everything that lies inside you: shout into the heavens, scream, and celebrate; this piece is for the best of humanity. Let go of everything, let it build for the moment of epic release, and make enough noise that they look down on us from the heavens with envy. Scream not for me, not for the performance - but for **you** and for us all.

*Play: Frederic Chopin - Andante Spianato et Grand Polonaise Brillante (15 mins)*

### **Pillar V: Gratitude**

Our time together nears an end, as does the existence of the religion we have built together here today. Everything must end, and whilst there may be an element of melancholic longing as we say farewell, this sadness does not mean we mourn: for we have been lucky enough to experience something truly magical these past days - let us not regret that it is almost over, but let us pay thanks for having been privileged enough to experience it at all.

The Fifth and Final Pillar of Fusionism is simply that: gratitude for beauty, for perfection, for this moment, and for all of us. This is the True Philosophy - the recognition that sometimes, things can be truly perfect - this moment together, this piece of music, is nothing more than pure, simple perfection. Let go of yourself, surrender your ego to this moment, allow yourself to drink it up and become a part of this community - this was our religion today for one tiny, solitary hour of our lives. Not that it need be forgotten - this text I have spoken today is open for all of you: remember the number 1 - 7 - 8 - 1, search online for the 1781 Collective, and it will be available for you to relive as often as you wish. 1-7-8-1.

After this piece, do not feel the need to interrupt the silence that follows it - keep yourselves in the moment for as long as you can - find a friend (be it an old or completely new one), and share it with them. To beauty, to perfection, to Fusionism, and to us, the Fusionites.

*Play: Richard Wagner/Franz Liszt - Liebestod from Tristan und Isolde (8 mins)*