

WARM DUST

Formed in 1970, UK's Warm Dust comprised Les Walker (vocals), Paul Carrack (b. 22 April 1951, Sheffield, North Riding of Yorkshire, England; keyboards), Alan Solomon (saxophone, keyboards, vocals), John Surguy (saxophone, guitar, vocals), Terry 'Tex' Comer (b. 23 February 1949, Burnley, Lancashire, England; bass) and Dave Pepper (drums). This accomplished progressive rock band made an ambitious debut with *And It Came To Pass*, a stylistically diverse double album hinged to Carrack's imaginative playing. Keith Bailey replaced Pepper prior to the following year's *Peace For Our Time*. This pacifist-styled concept album followed in a musically similar vein, breathing life into a then-tiring genre. Pepper then returned to the fold in place of Bailey. 1972's *Dreams Of Impossibilities* was only issued in Germany, where Warm Dust proved highly popular. Denied similar accolades in the UK, the band split up in 1972. Carrack and Comer then formed leading 'pub rock' act Ace.

Among the wave of brass rock groups that embraced the rock world from 68 until 71 or 72, Warm Dust was a late-comer, but quickly became one of the most interesting and progressive group of the genre. The sextet developed a solid psych-laced progressive brass rock, lead by the twin sax players of Alan Solomon (also KB) and John Surguy (also guitar) and featuring future Mike Rutherford and Steve Hackett acolyte Paul Carrack.

They released their debut album *And It Came To Pass* on the small Trend label and the double vinyl was a small tour-de-force (all things considered for a debut effort) with long compositions, thought-provoking lyrics and plenty of instrumental interplay, including sax, flute, organ, guitars etc.. Their second (conceptual) album released the following year is a frightening recount of the horrors of war and remains their most even album and usually pointed by connoisseurs as their best. It came out in Germany under a different name (*Peace For Our Times*) on the BASF label. Their last self-titled album with a striking whale artwork is mostly remembered for the sidelong suite *blind boy*, a stunning full-blown progressive track, which remains their crowning achievements.

Warm dust is definitely one of the Brass Rock genre's more interesting bands along with Brainchild, Galliard and in all honesty deserve at least as much recognition as the much more celebrated early Chicago, If or the cheesy BS&T and certainly much more fame than *The Greatest Show On Earth*. Exactly why the group broke up remains a mystery.