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Foreword by David Jackson

I'm David Jackson, probably best known as the saxophone player from 'Van der Graaf Generator'. I've known Judge Smith since 1968 and I was suggested by his school mate (and my friend) Max Hutchinson for the band 'Heebalob'. Ever since then, I've worked with Judge off and on, gaining sporadic insights into his seemingly infinite and unusual creative talents. Along with a host of myriad others revealed inside the book, when Judge beckons we know we are needed and we come running! We know we will all get involved in an unusual project involving something weird and wonderful; with something challenging and totally unforgettable!

I had forgotten that once long ago when Judge was in an atypical musical fix, it was actually myself who suggested that he talk to Ricardo Odriozola in Norway. They got on like a house on fire, as I had done with Ricardo after we had met at a Peter Hammill gig, a long time ago now.

Ricardo is also immensely talented. He is a great violinist, composer, conductor, teacher, facilitator and communicator with a captivating reach that extends well beyond his many languages. He came to Judge's rescue then - and has since come on to do so much more with him! Ricardo's revealing insights into Judge's unique workings and method have made me listen to everything by Judge in a completely new light.

Judge Smith has created an enormous body of dramatic and musical work that is all exceptionally original and unique. He is the untrained music maestro and has deliberately avoided learning notation and 'those rules'. His imagination is unlimited and there is always a high level of virtuosity on display. He always wins enormous respect - and love - and inspires the diverse range of the collaborators, music colleagues, bands, choirs, orchestras that he engages with on his incredible musical and dramatic journeys.

Ricardo's fascination and understanding of Judge's work is a blessing and a gift for us all now to share. This book showers profound and beautiful musical understanding and brilliant insights into all of Judge's diverse masterpieces. But it also follows Judge's amazing spiritual journey across his diverse careers with revealing and humorous anecdotes and brilliant contributions and insights from his astonishing and varied colleagues across those years.

Ricardo also recognises Judge's great respect to all the technicians and engineers who have supported his work over the years. And we all acknowledge the vital contributions from his international friends, fans and supporters over the years.

This book is fantastic and it has sort of taken me over for quite a while now! It is easy to read and it is captivating. You will find endless astonishing and poignant things along with thoughtful and hilarious revelations. It is also a book with keen analysis and sharing of those melodies, those genius lyrics, those groovy rhythms, those unusual harmonies and unusual musical structures. It

is exhilarating to have so much of a Judge Smith reference in the one place. I can also heartily recommend the Judge Smith Bandcamp on tap to help you on your adventure through this amazing book.

<https://judgesmith1.bandcamp.com>

And I can see “Cannonball! The music, words and images of Judge Smith” on my shelf alongside the book prizes I won at boarding school in the 1960s. It is a unique and great reference of how wonderful musical things came into being, who did it and of what they actually are. It’s an heirloom!

Judge Smith says his aim is to delight. And he just never fails!

David Jackson 2/6/2023