

**A Word with Andy Powell**

By Matt Gee

**Wishbone Ash**

More than thirty years after they were named the "Brightest Hope" and the "Best New Group" in the influential British music publications *Melody Maker* and *Sounds*, Wishbone Ash's following and influence continue unabated. Founding members Andy Powell and Ted Turner were voted among the top 20 guitarists of all time by *Rolling Stone Magazine*, and the group's albums continue to be strong sellers around the world.



**The Early Years**

The group began life right at the end of the 60s, playing their first gig just before Christmas 1969 in a small town north of London. The band became known for the twin lead guitar sound of Andy Powell and Ted Turner and encapsulated all that was good in the British progressive rock scene including folk styles counterbalanced with hard driving rock.

Introduced to producer Derek Lawrence by Deep Purple guitarist Ritchie Blackmore and the rest, as they say, is history. Seventeen studio and countless live albums later, the band continues to record and tour for faithful audiences around the world. By Mark Chatterton - excerpted from "The Best Of Wishbone Ash" compilation CD.

Visit Wishbone Ash on the Web at [WishboneAsh.com](http://WishboneAsh.com)

Guitarist Andy Powell has been with the band from its inception and spoke with Matt Gee following a gig in Wakefield, England.

**You've passed a long way together. Lots of line up changes. Lots of fashions have come and gone. How does getting older affect you and music in general?** When I feel too old, I'll quit. As for now, I still enjoy it. There's still a lot of fun, but indeed, it has been a long journey. I've been in the music business for thirty years. We've done lots of touring, 19 studio albums, numerous compilations and live albums. The latest album is acoustic ("**Bare Bones**", 1999), and a live album will be released soon ("**Live Dates III**", 2001). We toured many countries: USA, Europe, The Soviet Union and even India. It's a life!

**Do you listen to a lot of today's music?** I do listen, whenever possible. Right now, there are many good bands. This is a pretty healthy period – but not necessarily in the U.K. The U.K. is now more pop oriented, not rock. Considering the huge number of amazing rock acts raised here in the past, it's amazing to find the current U.K. market in a pop sensibility.

There are some good bands like "Stone the Crows", a band with rock ideal. They don't sound like a 70s band but use 70s ideals.

There was some good music in the 80s but it became weird. However, values appear to return now. I also

