

**The following interview
with Tom Petersson of
CHEAP TRICK
was conducted by the Library of Congress
on March 30, 2020**



Library of Congress: Most bands do their first “live” album rather late in their career. Why did Cheap Trick decide to release a live LP as only your third LP release?

Tom Petersson: Our record label in Japan asked if it was okay to film us on our first tour for an hour-long Japanese television special. After it was aired, they asked if they could make it into a “for Japan only” vinyl LP.

LOC: Along with you, some other bands (The Runaways come to mind) hit first in Japan before making a major impact in the US. Why do you think that is? Why are Asian audiences often the first to embrace something as distinctly American as rock and roll?

TP: The Japanese love all sorts of western music including--American, British, Canadian, German, French, etc. I think they took to acts that had songs that were melodic and easy to sing along with. Having a bit of a cartoonish look helped, too.

LOC: Knowing that this album was going to be recorded and released as an LP, did that affect your set list? Did you perform differently knowing that this particular night's performance was going to be pressed into vinyl?

TP: No one knew it would turn into a vinyl release. That happened after the fact. The only thing we changed in our performance was adding the song “I Want You To Want Me” to the set.

We had recently stopped playing it because it hadn't caught on anywhere else. Our Japanese tour promoter told us it was very popular in Japan and couldn't believe we weren't playing it, so we threw it back in the set at the last minute. Good thing.

LOC: How is it different playing for Asian audiences versus American or European ones?

TP: I think the audiences everywhere worldwide are basically the same. Taller in some places, shorter in others.

LOC: When did you first become aware that the album was catching on in America?

TP: We became aware when the Japanese release sold over 300,000 copies in the US alone. Our record company in New York saw the writing on the wall and released it worldwide.

LOC: Who are Cheap Trick's biggest musical influences?

TP: Our influences could be summed up with the 1960's British Invasion. The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Kinks, The Who, The Yardbirds, The Small Faces, etc. Really, the list is endless.