

# STYX

## A BRIEF MUSICAL HISTORY

**1969:** After forming a band which would be known as "TW4" a few years prior, neighbors Dennis DeYoung and brothers Chuck and John Panozzo enroll at Chicago State University. Although the band had already performed in, and around, the Chicago area, C.S.U. would become the group's base. The trio hook up with another student, John Curulewski, who takes over the helm on guitar.

**1970:** Guitarist James "JY" Young – who was performing with a rival band in Chicago – joins the quartet. The new line-up begins taking a different direction with more musical experiments, with classical/rock fusion's and electronic trickeries.

**1971:** The band's demo is heard by the Wooden Nickel label, who would, subsequently, offer the band a recording contract the following year.

**1972:** The band is renamed STYX after a mythological river of the dead – a decision made by the band members. STYX I is released. The single, "Best Thing" (written by DeYoung and "JY"), reaches the Top 100 on the charts by the end of the year.

**1973:** STYX II is released, and although it doesn't chart immediately, the Dennis DeYoung-penned ballad, "Lady," gets considerable airplay on Chicago radio. The band concentrates on their touring efforts in support of the single's success, and creates a vast following of fans. The band will release The Serpent Is Rising toward the end of the year.

**1974:** The Serpent Is Rising cracks the Top 200 Albums Chart in February, followed up by Man Of Miracles, which reaches even higher position in November. "Lady" would be re-released as a single with national promotion, and the song would be propelled to #6 on the U.S. charts.

**1975:** STYX II rockets up the charts as a result of the success of "Lady." It would reach #20, and sell over 500,000 units. In September, after searching for a larger and more supportive label, STYX would sign with powerhouse A&M Records. Two months later, Equinox, featuring the single "Lorelei" – would be the first A&M release, immediately reaching gold status (and eventually going platinum). At the end of the year, guitarist John Curulewski would leave the band. The band's road manager recommends 23-year-old Tommy Shaw – then guitarist for Chicago based band "MS Funk" – as a replacement. A week after auditioning, Tommy Shaw joined the band.