

# The Train Now Arriving...



The Underfall Yard is the astonishing sixth album from independent progressive rock band Big Big Train. It will be released through English Electric Recordings on 15th December 2009 and follows on from their highly acclaimed The Difference Machine album (2007)

**The Underfall Yard** contains the band's most ambitious and finely-crafted songs to date and is the first to feature new singer **David Longdon**.

Once again the band are joined on drums by **Nick D'Virgilio** (Spock's Beard, Tears For Fears, Genesis) and new passengers on this particular journey include **Dave Gregory** (XTC, Peter Gabriel), **Francis Dunnery** (It Bites) and **Jem Godfrey** (Frost\*). The album was mixed by **Rob Aubrey** (IQ, Transatlantic, Asia)

In recent years **Big Big Train** have released a number of critically lauded albums, quietly building a dedicated following for their unique style of progressive rock. Big Big Train are a truly progressive band, creating new music which looks towards the horizon. The Underfall Yard is their emotionally charged masterpiece, packed with dramatic, anthemic passages and heart stopping moments.

## About The Underfall Yard

**The Underfall Yard** is a collection of songs which tell stories, some old and some new. You will travel through tunnels made by the great Victorian engineers in England's chalkhills, hear the mournful laments of coastal villages lost to the sea on storm-filled nights; you will meet the grand architect of castles. And have you heard the tale of the man who saved a great cathedral from collapse by diving under its flooded foundations? It is all here on The Underfall Yard.

The Underfall Yard can be compared with the best albums of the classic prog period by Genesis, PFM, King Crimson and Yes. Big Big Train are also influenced by alternative artists such as Mew, Sigur Ros, The Cure and Oceansize and draw inspiration from English folk and pop music including bands like XTC, The Beatles and Prefab Sprout.

## Big Big Train & David Longdon Biography

**Big Big Train** was founded in 1990 by **Andy Poole** and **Greg Spawton**.

Their first album, **Goodbye to the Age of Steam** (1994) established their typical melancholic sound. After two albums on the GEP label, **Big Big Train** became a fully independent band releasing three more albums on their own **English Electric label**, including the critically acclaimed **The Difference Machine** (2007). In 2008 they partially re-recorded and re-released their early GEP **English Boy Wonders** album in an expanded format.

Big Big Train's new vocalist is the singer, songwriter and multi instrumentalist **David Longdon**. In the 1990's David signed to Rondor Music and recorded for Epic records. His band **The Gifthorse** supported **Kirsty MacColl**, **Blur** and **The Pogues** amongst others.

It was in the final days of **The Gifthorse** that David was invited to audition as a potential replacement for **Phil Collins** as lead singer in **Genesis**. He worked with **Tony Banks**, **Mike**

**Rutherford** and producer **Nick Davis** from May to November 1996 on recordings that would become the **Calling All Stations** album. **Genesis** also worked with **Stiltskin** vocalist **Ray Wilson** at the same time and eventually he was preferred over David. **Nick D'Virgilio**, who plays drums for **Big Big Train** on *The Difference Machine* and *The Underfall Yard* also played on *Calling All Stations*. David's first solo CD **Wild River** (2004) featured many musicians collectively known as **The Magic Club** including XTC's **Dave Gregory**.

In 2008 **Martin Orford** (IQ) invited David to sing on his swan-song album **The Old Road** which was also recorded by **Rob Aubrey** and once again featured **Nick D'Virgilio**. Martin and Rob suggested that David should become the new singer for **Big Big Train**, a band which has been gathering considerable momentum in recent years and so in 2009, David joined Andy and Greg onboard the Train. With all the players now in position, work began on **The Underfall Yard**.

## Praise for The Difference Machine (2007)

*Splendidly mellifluous UK prog, featuring appearances from Marillion's Pete Trewavas and Nick D'Virgilio from Spock's Beard.*

### **Dave Ling, Classic Rock and Metal Hammer magazines**

*The Bournemouth band have extra locomotive power for their fifth album. This is finely crafted and acutely involving, especially the chilling Salt Water Falling On Uneven Ground.*

### **Geoff Barton, Classic Rock magazine**

*Here's a tasty slab of pure prog, the fifth album from a band that continues to plough its own considerable furrow without the aid of label support. This is an English garden variety of progressive rock, not the brutal 21st century insanity of LA's Upsilon Acrux, and Genesis and Marillion are your references (indeed, Pete Trewavas can be found guesting). Expect tracks in excess of 10 minutes, fuzz guitar of every colour, serious rocking out, Beatlesque Mellotronisms, and grandiose organs.*

### **Guitar and Bass magazine**

*Unashamed, unreconstructed PROG F\*\*\*IN' ROCK. The Difference Machine is bound to please fans of Yes, The Enid and early Genesis. This one's an epic...sit back and lose yourself*

### **Terrorizer magazine**

*The Difference Machine is a magnificent piece of work, one of the most engrossing and entertaining modern prog albums I've heard.*

### **Jason Warburg, Daily Vault**

*Three epics in the 12 to 14 minute range dominate The Difference Machine, but the seven minute closer 'Summer's Lease', stands its own beside the big guys, offering the most easily accessible melodies of the bunch on first listen. Make no mistake, though, the distinctive vocal harmonies and instrumental passage resolutions of the long tracks are what makes this recording such a special experience. Rating: 15.5 out of 16.*

### **Progression Magazine**

## Big Big Train Discography

Goodbye to the Age of Steam (1994)

English Boy Wonders (1997)

Bard (2002)

Gathering Speed (2004)

The Difference Machine (2007)

English Boy Wonders (2008)

*Updated version of 1997 album in an expanded and re-recorded format*

The Underfall Yard (2009)