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By Ernie Rideout

The year of Moog Madness continued as the traveling celebration honoring Dr. Robert Moog and his 50 years of synth-making arrived in New York City on May 18. Synth freaks, prog-heads, and throwbacks to the '60s, '70s, and '80s (as well as a few individuals from some unspecified point in the future) packed B.B. King's to the rafters for a chance to hear some of the players who helped make Moog memorable. Some of the notable performers onstage and hanging out backstage included: Keith Emerson, who blew through his greatest hits on B-3, Korg Triton, and of course, his Moog Modular; Will Alexander, without whom Emo's Moog Modular would've gone silent ages ago; Dr. Robert Moog, flanked by Steve Molitz of Particle and Keyboard's own Tom Brislin of Spiraling; Jordan Rudess of Dream Theater, David Rosenthal of Happy the Man, Keith Emerson, Rick Wakeman, and Bernie Worrell; MD Jason Miles took care of the house band business; (f) Deodato and Steve Molitz get nostalgic with "2001." Other highlights: Pamela Kurstin held the crowd spellbound with her Theremin chops, Suzanne Ciani beguiled with the Moog PianoBar, Tommy Mandel threw down skanky reggae, and DJ Logic wove some killer grooves. And it was Rick Wakeman's birthday to boot!