



# Muse

Live at Orlando Amway Arena

words & pictures by Steve Moles

lightweight compared to comparable products, and weight was a critical requirement for Oli to be able to use the high-speed winches that make the pyramid appear to move so fluidly."

Metcalfe wasn't sure how much LED he had in total (how quickly the detail slips from your mind once the tour begins). In fact, according to XL Video, it was approximately 195 square metres (360 tiles in the pyramid, 120 in the Panorama, and 60 in fascias/risers). "XL demonstrated the product to us, it was very lightweight, dense enough to properly render the hi-def camera and content we feed to it, and has proved the right choice," he said.

Metcalfe continues: "We also started with the pyramid movement conceived on a wire winch system, but actually the Kinesys has proved the better way. Gareth Williams runs it for me."

Williams' motion control choreography is stunning. The pyramid's first descent from its packed flat form, tucked within the ace of diamonds lighting rig, draws a gasp from the crowd. Metcalfe has programmed a sequence of light and motion that, like a good piece of CGI in a movie, completely subverts the sense that we are watching something mechanical. Instead the pyramid emerges like some living beast, fluid and organic. It's a real coup de théâtre - he is to

be congratulated. "I'm really grateful to Dave Ridgeway for investing in the system for me," he says. He's also fortunate in having Williams at the helm, as tour rigger Jez Craddick told me: "Gareth never compromises. If he thinks something he's been asked to do is unsafe, he won't do it."

The lighting rig is itself pretty stunning. "Everything except the floor kit travels in HUD truss, Neg Earth's own moving light pre-rig," says Metcalfe. Look at the photos, count the beams, and then be amazed to learn, "so much travels in the truss that we only have about 10 flightcases for the entire lighting rig."

And there is plenty of gear in those trusses; arguably neatest of all is the Limpet devices (see LSi December 2012) fitted for the four followspot operators hanging beneath the truss. "The design is so open we needed to get away from how to deal with the wire ladders. Although Limpets are designed as a lift assist, we use them as a total lift. In the past people have used small chain hoists, but none of them are rated for personnel, whereas the Limpet is, by definition. Oh and they have a UPS with them in case of power failure so the operators can still descend.

Metcalfe continues: "All the followspots are Robert Juliat Flos, an 1800W MSR. I control colour and intensity from the desk, they come with DMX input to a really nice dimmer, and Neg fitted a 10" Coloram to the front for

me. Running a show this complex - I have video, motion and laser to call - didn't leave me any room for spot calling, and some of my spot cues are too fast to call anyway."

Fast colour changes that shadow perfectly those taking place in the lighting system make for a very coherent look - and he's right, they are so fast a spot caller could not deliver the instructions fast enough. "The Flos are so bright. I really like the finish of the Juliat lights, so I'm going to spec' Lancelots for the stadium shows." These shows will be underway by the time you read this, so where appropriate I have peppered this review with stadium ideas from across the production.

Of his other choices, Metcalfe says: "I have four main lights, all chosen very specifically. VL3500 Wash might be getting a bit long in the tooth now, but there's nothing yet to do what they do better. But they are limited - they either do wide or narrow, and between the two they're inconsistent. For arena level touring there's a good market for a sub-30kg 45° wash that can go to a tight beam." No doubt Clay Paky will be happy with that statement: Sharpy Wash anyone?

"MAC Vipers [Martin Professional] are here for a powerful spot with a consistent beam; I didn't want those sort of gritty lighting artefacts you see within the beams of comparable lights, and Vipers are just what



Proud to continue our ongoing relationship



Congratulations on yet another epic tour!

PROJECTION • LED SCREENS • MEDIA SERVERS • CAMERA SYSTEMS • HD RECORDS • EXPERIENCED CREW

XL VIDEO - 2 EASTMAN WAY - HEMEL HEMPSTEAD - HERTS - HP2 7DU  
TEL +44(0) 1442 849 400 FAX +44(0) 1442 849 401 www.xlvideo.com

