

# Neptune

## **The Rise, Fall and Resurrection of Neptune – Killer majestic steel from Sweden**

### **The history**

In 2018, Neptune released the long-awaited aggregate back catalog of collected demos and recordings from the 80s – Land of Northern. Neptune look at themselves as one of the earliest pioneers during the NWOSHM era. The band started already in the late 1970s or if it was early 80s. Even though the band had a solid foundation, they underwent a few member changes where names such as Jan Granvik (Glory, Grave) and Björn Melander (Mogg, Gotham City) appeared.

After several demos that unfortunately never saw the light of the day, the band decided to make a slightly more professional recording. With that recording, one had intended to raise record labels and pump them on a pleasing record deal. The recording took place in the prestigious Soundtrade studio with Alar Surna (Roxette) behind the mixing desk. Several meetings were held and one of the record companies thought it was so interesting that they paid for the entire recording.

For several reasons, it all went down the drain and the recording were put on the shelf for good... they thought. The band once again underwent some member changes and recorded a few more demos. After a while, the band split up and the singer Ray Alex was sought out by the former member Jan Granvik and the seed of the band Glory was born.

### **The aftermath**

After the split up, Ray Alex recorded vocal on more or less the whole Glorys first album but eventually was replaced by Peter Eriksson. Ray Alex joined the band Backdraft (later Backdraft Evolution) and Anders Olsson started his own studio together with an old friend - Tosh Ason. They were recorded bands on a daily basis and one day when they were in the middle of the recording of Unanimated's debut album "In the Forest of the Dreaming Dead", Ray Alex called them up and told them that he was eager to start something again. This project ended up with the full-length demo "In Truth We Trust" under the band name JAR.

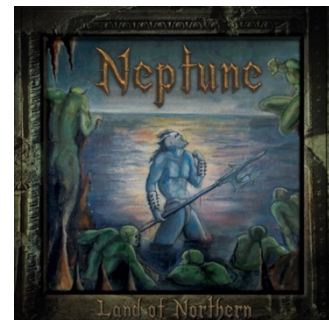
## The Resurgence of Swedish Steel [2003]

One can think that the story of Neptune ends at this point, but oh so they deceived. Without the band's knowledge, in 2003 one of their old demos of "Enemies" was released on a collection record called "Metal Knights - The Resurgence of Swedish Steel". This is considered to be the seed of something that took another 15 years before it broke out. In addition to this, a couple of the band's old demos had leaked on You Tube and over time a sigh of more songs was created on a number of "fan sites".



## Land of Northern [1983-2018]

Late autumn 2017, a Greek record company managed to get hold of one of the members of the band and asked if they would like to release the old recordings on both CD and vinyl. Of course, the band was not late to step up and 30 years after the band entered the studio, they finally got to keep the desirable vinyl in their hands.



## The last flight of the Rafven [2019]

The band has since then released a digital EP and as guest guitars on the recording they used Janne Stark (Overdrive, ex Grand Design). After the original singer Ray sadly passed away back in January 2019, the band took a break to gather. The grief and the uncertainty were total but eventually Rays brother Roland decided to take over the role as a singer. It felt like the most natural solution, and they were, after all, brothers. The first gig takes place at The Abyss thanks to faithful fans who have more or less managed the booking. The band's first festival play took place at Muskelrock in June 2019.



## Northern steel [2020]

Northern Steel is the band's first real full release and it consists mainly of newly written songs. To make it even fiercer. They decided to invite some of the best string benders from Nordic to make it even stronger - hence Northern Steel. Northern Steel was released the 6<sup>th</sup> in of November 2020 in collaboration with Melodic Passion record's & Sound Pollutions.



## Legends from the North [2022]

The box contains the following tapes:

**Join the Battle:** 11 of Neptune's finest demo recordings, recorded between 1982 and 1985. The tape even contains some never ever released songs and recordings.

**Land of Northern:** The recordings that were intended to constitute Neptune's never materialized debut album. Recorded between 1984 and 1987. First time on cassette.

**Northern Steel:** The comeback album from 2020. First time on cassette.



## The Rebirth [2022]

During the few gigs that the band performed before and during the pandemic, they discovered the fans' fascination with some old songs from the past and decided to do something about it. Said and done, 4 of the songs from the compilation album from 2018 – Land of Northern are re-recorded and will shortly be released digitally under the name - The Rebirth.



As "The Rebirth" mainly is a so called "between release" for the fans... The band is right now in full swing with their sequel to Northern Steel. The production name for that album is "Mother Land" and is planned to be released early 2023.

The band are Jonas Wikström – Drums, Anders Olsson – guitar, Row Alex - vocal, Tosh Ason - bass, Johan Rosth – keyboard.



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