

NEPTUNE

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

The history

In 2018, Neptune finally unveiled the much-anticipated comprehensive compilation of demos and recordings from the 1980s, titled "Land of Northern." Regarded as trailblazers of the NWOSHM era, Neptune proudly identified themselves as among its earliest pioneers. The band's origins trace back to either the late 1970s or the early 1980s. Despite establishing a strong foundation, Neptune underwent several changes in its lineup, with notable names like Jan Granvik (from Glory and Grave) and Björn Melander (from Mogg and Gotham City) making appearances.

Following a series of demos that unfortunately remained unreleased, the band opted for a more polished recording in hopes of attracting record labels and securing a favorable record deal. This recording took place at the renowned Soundtrade studio, helmed by Alar Surna (known for his work with Roxette) at the mixing desk. Through numerous discussions, one record company found the project intriguing enough to cover the entire recording costs. However, due to a variety of factors, their plans eventually fell through, and the recorded material was shelved indefinitely—or so they believed. The band underwent further lineup changes and produced additional demos. Eventually, Neptune disbanded, leading to the singer Ray Alex being approached by former member Jan Granvik. This encounter marked the inception of the band Glory.

The aftermath

Following the band's breakup, Ray Alex contributed vocals to a substantial portion of Glory's debut album. However, he was eventually succeeded by Peter Eriksson. In the aftermath, Row Alex (Ray's brother) became a member of Backdraft (later known as Backdraft Evolution), while Anders Olsson embarked on a venture with an old friend, Tosh Ason, establishing their own recording studio. They engaged in daily recording sessions, and during the midst of working on Unanimated's inaugural album "In the Forest of the Dreaming Dead," Ray Alex reached out to them. He expressed his keen interest in initiating a new musical project.

This endeavor resulted in the creation of the full-length demo "In Truth We Trust," released under the moniker JAR.

A seed is sown [2003]

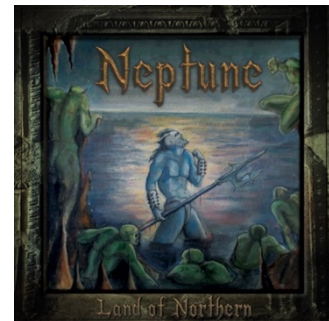
One might assume that Neptune's story concludes at this juncture, but appearances can be deceiving. Unbeknownst to the band, a twist awaited. In 2003, an unexpected development occurred when one of their earlier demos, "Enemies," emerged on a compilation album titled "Metal Knights - The Resurgence of Swedish Steel." Little did they know that this event sowed the seeds of a journey that would take another 15 years to fully materialize.



Furthermore, a couple of the band's vintage demos found their way onto YouTube, gradually forming a trail that led to the emergence of additional songs across various "fan sites" over time.

Land of Northern [1983-2018]

In the latter part of 2017, during the late autumn season, a Greek record label successfully established contact with one of the band's members. They inquired whether there was interest in releasing the band's archival recordings on both CD and vinyl formats. Naturally, the band promptly seized the opportunity, wasting no time. Three decades after their initial studio endeavor, they at last held the coveted vinyl records in their hands.



The last flight of the Rafven [2019]

Subsequently, the band proceeded to unveil a digital EP. For this release, they enlisted the talents of Janne Stark (known for his involvement with Overdrive and as a former member of Grand Design) as a guest guitarist on the recording.

Tragedy struck when the original vocalist, Ray, sadly passed away in January 2019. In the wake of this loss, the band opted for a hiatus, allowing time for reflection and regrouping. Emotions ran deep, and the path ahead seemed uncertain. Eventually, Ray's brother, Roland, made the poignant decision to step into the role of lead singer. This transition felt remarkably organic, given their fraternal bond.

Their initial performance took place at The Abyss, made possible by dedicated fans who facilitated the booking process. Subsequently, the band marked their festival debut at Muskelrock in June 2019.



Stronger than steel [2020]

"Northern Steel" stands as the band's first complete release, predominantly comprising freshly crafted tracks. In a bid to infuse even greater intensity, they opted to enlist some of the finest string maestros from the Nordic region, thus amplifying its potency – hence the title "Northern Steel." This formidable work was officially launched on November 6th, 2020, through a collaborative effort between Melodic Passion Records and Sound Pollution.



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 handful of performances, the band undertook before and amid the pandemic, they unearthed a captivating enthusiasm among fans for certain vintage tracks. In response, they resolved to act. As a result, four songs sourced from the 2018 compilation album "Land of Northern" underwent re-recording and will soon be digitally unveiled as "The Rebirth." Given that "The Rebirth" serves primarily as an intermediary offering to their loyal audience, the band is currently deeply engrossed in the creation of their subsequent project following "Northern Steel." The forthcoming album, tentatively titled "End of Time," is well underway in production and is slated for an early 2024 release.



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



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