Beginning

The story of NEVERLAND began in the fall of 1999 at the ACM music school in Zurich, when Boris Stoll (drums) and Daniel Huber (guitar) decided to start their own band. Their goal was to give free rein to their musical ideas and visions, creating songs that would appeal to fans of catchy melodic vocal lines, progressive touches, combined with classic riffs and melodies. Time passed, and with unwavering determination to establish their own band, they found the right musicians in Manuel Wagner (keyboards), Andreas Mislin (guitar), and Roland Jost (bass). The lineup was complete when singer Mike Zotter joined. Bassist Roland Jost commented on the band’s name: "I found NEVERLAND to be a perfect fit, as each band member comes from a different part of Switzerland or Germany. Musically, NEVERLAND is a fusion of ‘spaciousness and vastness,’ which is expressed through atmospheric keyboards, melodic vocals, and a solid rhythm section. In short, NEVERLAND is energetic metal with melody!"

Demo CD

Full of energy, the band independently recorded a 4-track demo CD. For mixing, they collaborated with Tommy Vetterli (Coroner, Kreator) at New Sound Studio in Pfäffikon, and for mastering, they hired Philipp Schweidler from Department of Noise. The finished demo CD was sent out widely and received outstanding reviews. The song “Neverland” appeared on the *Best of Helvetic Rock* sampler (Musikvertrieb Muve Records) alongside bands like Krokus, Coroner, and Gotthard. Based on the positive reviews, a Japanese record label made an offer, though the band declined. NEVERLAND performed live at festivals such as Progsol and Rock im Ring in Switzerland, and completed a club tour domestically. Motivated by the positive press, the band began writing songs for their full-length album, *Schizophrenia*.

Schizophrenia

After finishing the songwriting, they returned to New Sound Studio with Tommy Vetterli at the helm. Due to personal differences, vocalist Mike Zotter was replaced by the powerful voice of Jean Marc Viller, who recorded vocals for eight songs. The completed album was given a punchy, straightforward sound and was mastered by engineer Mika Jussila at Finnvox Studios. The album showcased the progressive side of NEVERLAND, catching the attention of Escape Music Ltd., which offered the band a record deal. This was accepted, and Escape Music Ltd. released *Schizophrenia* worldwide. The album again received positive feedback and led to live shows with bands like Thunderstone, Pure Inc., and GURD, both domestically and in nearby countries. The song “Anguish” was included on the *Melodic Rock of the 21st Century* sampler alongside bands like Masterplan, Edguy, Axel Rudi Pell, and Michael Schenker Group.

Promo CD

After *Schizophrenia*, the band lineup changed once again, with singer Jean Marc Viller departing. After an extended search for a new vocalist, they chose Adrian Leu from the band Granit. With Adrian's new voice, they wrote new songs, which were recorded on a 4-track promo CD. This promo CD was shared informally, leading to a management contract with CGM Agency, which also represented Mike Mangini. The band opened for Mangini at a drum clinic in Switzerland, performing live with him. The U.S.-based agency invited the band on a promotional tour in the United States, where they performed in cities from Miami to North Carolina, with a highlight being the Pathfinder Festival in Marietta, alongside Circle II Circle. The song “Close Your Eyes” was included on the Propower sampler, and the band recorded additional material at SAE Studios in Miami. After returning, they continued working on a new album, but the tragic death of Adrian Leu overshadowed the project. Following this loss, the band paused, with members pursuing other projects.

Illusory World

Following a reunion of founding members Daniel Huber and Boris Stoll, they decided to start a new chapter in the band’s history. Original vocalist Mike Zotter shared this vision, and they began exchanging ideas. Together with Roland Jost (bass), they worked on new songs. The COVID-19 pandemic complicated the recording process, as cross-border meetings were impossible. The songs were recorded and produced in their own Peakville Studio, with Tommy Vetterli once again handling the mixing. Mastering was completed by Tony Lindgren at Fascination Street Studios. The finished songs caught the attention of Tobias Bruntschi from Powerblast Records, who offered the band a contract. With a new partner, they filmed a music video for the song “Legends” and made several announcements on social media. On the search for management and a booking agency, they found an ideal partner in Lars Larsen’s Intromental agency to guide NEVERLAND’s future musical development.

Statement

With the reunion of the founding members, the band is more determined than ever to open a new chapter in NEVERLAND’s history. The band aims for songs that are diverse, balancing straightforwardness and experimental elements, allowing listeners to discover hidden details with each listen. NEVERLAND’s songs are designed to remain fresh and captivating, sparking new interest with each play. NEVERLAND has now laid the foundation for another chapter in their musical journey and hopes to take this step together with you!