



## Newsletter April 2005

In this month's newsletter, you'll find:

- 1) **Some reactions on MIND Vol. 5: The Observatory**
- 2) **Another opportunity to see IB on DVD**
- 3) **Forthcoming workshops**
- 4) **Exclusive distribution deal in Germany**
- 5) **Sounds of Eternity**
- 6) **Open letter from Mats**

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### 1) **Some reactions on MIND Vol. 5: The Observatory**

MIND Vol. 5: The Observatory has been out for a couple of weeks now, and there are some reviews of it. Here are some of the things that have been said about the DVD:

"The sound canvas ["Thoughts Stand Still"] is quite exciting. [...] I could do with some more of that on the next CD"

"A good impression for someone who has never seen [Isildurs Bane] live. Makes you want to experience it."

Andreas Pläschke, Babyblaue Seiten

"I like the conceptual, almost arty reworkings of the material. It conveys a dreamlike, unreal atmosphere, makes the band unapproachable and makes me want to get the DVD out time and again."

"When performed live, the songs from MIND Vol. 4 come alive"

"The vocalists Linnea Olsson and Mariette Hansson deliver extraordinary performances – they can handle all the vocals on any future vocal albums!"

"[The Voyage suite] surely makes up one of the most impressive parts of the DVD"

"All in all, I recommend MIND Vol. 5 as a thoroughly impressive film experience. [...] A must for fans, a point of entry for critics"

Fix Sadler, Babyblaue Seiten

"Here's the evidence. 'Without Grace' is magical with Mariette's

vocals and the most beautiful song Mats has ever written. It would, with IB's hallmark intact, fit on any chart, believe me."

Jan-Ove Wikström, Hallandsposten

"Because I had not heard of one of the oldest Prog-rock bands of Europe, I should get a slapping. Isildurs Bane from Sweden are just about the best I have ever heard in this area"

Björn Backes, Power Metal

"The vast amounts of material makes this DVD interesting and anyone wanting to see how this band perform their splendid and complex songs can do it well here. I can really recommend this DVD generally."

VM, Ragazzi

"A treasure-trove for IB's fans as well as all lovers of progressive pop/rock music with a classical approach spiced with jazz elements, who have an 'open minded' taste for objects of virtue."

"Finally, they're coming up with a visual masterpiece, scurile, uncomon, partly avantgardistic, fantastic."

Rita Bayer, Ytsejam

Convinced? Now go out and buy MIND Vol. 5: The Observatory!

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## **2) Another opportunity to see IB on DVD**

Now that you have bought MIND Vol. 5, you want more, don't you? We are happy to oblige. IB's performance at last years' Gouveia Art Rock festival was filmed and will be released on DVD. The release date coincides with this year's festival at Gouveia, that is April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

On the DVD you will se a straight and honest live performance with IB in full flight for an hour and 15 minutes performing songs from The Voyage, MIND Vol. 1, MIND Vol. 2 and MIND Vol. 4.

There are also performances from Periferia del mondo, La torre dell'alchimista and Fernando Guiomar.

More info on the DVD and the festival on [www.gaudela.net/gar](http://www.gaudela.net/gar)  
If you haven't got anything planned for next weekend, go to Gouveia. If you have, go anyway and take your friends! Yours truly will be there to promote IB, sell CDs and DVDs and present a paper on progressive rock at a round table discussion.

The Gouveia DVD will be available from:  
Just for Kicks ([www.justforkicks.de](http://www.justforkicks.de))  
Record Heaven ([www.recordheaven.net](http://www.recordheaven.net))  
And via us ([office@isildursbane.se](mailto:office@isildursbane.se))

The Gouveia DVD should be available the week following the festival.

Klas sticking up for "Gicken". Photo by kind permission of Eduardo Mota.

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### **3) Forthcoming workshops**

This month sees IB doing the following workshops:

April 4<sup>th</sup> Katrineberg folk school  
April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Rosenfreds school, Varberg  
April 22<sup>nd</sup> The Music School, Laholm

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### **4) Exclusive distribution deal in Germany**

We are proud to announce that we have signed an exclusive distribution contract in Germany with Just for Kicks. From now on, any German orders will be dealt with by the most capable crew at Just for Kicks! Go to [www.justforkicks.de](http://www.justforkicks.de)

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### **5) Sounds of Eternity**

As reported in our December newsletter, "Gicken" has formed a band with several members of IB's extended family. Nowadays, this band even has a name: Sounds of Eternity. They consist of "Gicken" on bass, Linnea Olsson (who is featured on MIND Vol. 5) on cello and vocals, Fredrik Davidsson (who plays on "Celestial Vessel" on MIND Vol. 5) on trumpet, Povel Ohlsson on drums and Conrad Boqvist on guitar.

Just a week ago, this jazzy combo performed in front of a full house at Halmknippet in Halmstad. I was there, and I can strongly recommend that you check them out should you get the opportunity! Good playing all around, fine improvisations and compositions that go further than the standard jazz sandwich (theme – solos – theme). "Gicken" contributed with several enigmatic-sounding titles called "Part 1", "Part 2", "Part 5" and my personal favourite, "Part 4".

"Gicken" revealed that they have set their collective minds on recording an album, but it's still not decided when or on which label. More news as I find out of course.

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## **6) Open letter from Mats**

Since we have a DVD out featuring new songs, I thought it would be a good idea for Mats to pass comment on this. Here's an open letter from Mats on this topic:

First of all, let me tell you how pleased I am to work musically with young people who are good instrumentalists, good vocalists and good composers.

Christof got a lot of space on MIND Vol. 4 with his lyrics, and he was able to influence the vocal melodies and choose the female vocalists to suit his voice on particular songs. A lot of the time, he has a good perspective on a song in its early stages since he is a bit of a multi-instrumentalist while being rooted in the pop and rock traditions, in a way which I am not. He works faster than me and has a fantastic feeling for melodies and rhythms.

Mariette has her aims set high within music, and since she is an electric guitarist, vocalist, composer and only 22 years of age, she is of extra importance to IB. What can we help each other with? Can we inspire each other with our different experiences? Most importantly: what is the result? On MIND Vol. 5, Mariette played an important role, not least by composing "Under the Wind", "People are Afraid" and parts of "Thoughts Stand Still".

Linnea is also 22 years old, and just like Mariette a musician without prejudice. As if that weren't enough, she is a good bassist and is currently studying cello at the Royal Academy of Music in Stockholm. I am convinced that Linnea could introduce new ideas to IB in a possible collaboration in the future. I haven't composed with Linnea, but who knows? It is a distinct possibility. It's up to her more than me. I am convinced that such collaboration would at least be to my benefit. Linnea is not averse to vocal improvisations and add her open mind when it comes to music, and I am convinced that working together would be very interesting indeed! A capella perhaps?

IB have tried to push the envelope and let younger people into the circle without telling them what to do musically. They know very well that you can do quite daring things in IB, or, the opposite, like on "Without Grace". Simple, but sometimes difficulty lies in simplicity. We have obviously expanded in some way when releasing new IB songs with a slightly poppier approach. Is it better or worse? There is no answer, really. But it is essential that IB constantly break out of musical straight jackets.

Maybe a composer should also take photographs, write prose, read good literature, paint, write film scripts, act and so on. Versatility and range is often synonymous to fragmentation and a lack of personality. I refer to the opposite. IB cross musical borders where the experiences of the musicians involved are assets when listening to the end result.

Many seem to think that it was easier to compose The Voyage than the songs on MIND Vol. 4. But that's absolutely wrong, of course. It is evident that they are two completely different things with all that comes with it. The most important thing was that IB tried to develop the band musically by meeting new and young people and doing something together. What happens if the very same people meet in an art music project with a chamber orchestra for MIND Vol. 6? Why not? The result may be interesting, and if that's the case, it's great that we know each other at least a bit before we go on to bigger musical projects.

Finally, let me tell you how composing music for IB can happen in 2004/2005.

When "Thoughts Stand Still" was to be composed for MIND Vol. 5, I had to put together three parts of an ambient piece. I gave the parts to Mariette and she imported the music to her computer. After that, it took a while, but all of a sudden I got a CD-R with loads of voices and guitars. I got it as sound files, made a simple mix and edited it in Peak. Mariette listened and approved, and the song ended up as a bonus track on MIND Vol. 5.

When Fredrik Timour edited the documentary footage at a later stage for MIND Vol. 5, he said he didn't have any music that was spiky enough to suit his editing. I knew what he meant and took my one-octave Nord Modular and went to Fredrik's studio. I improvised with 15 of my favourite sounds for two hours on top of the already finished "Thoughts Stand Still". We edited the music once more, processed it and treated the voices some more, which resulted in a more dramatic piece, which suited the purpose.

It was important to me that the music would fit into IB's musical sphere without Mariette's or my parts of the composition being lost on the way. Reworking this took about four hours.

To sum up: New technology made it possible for Mariette and myself to make 12 minutes and 34 seconds of new music without having to meet.

When we were done, we had two choices. Either shout "This is about..." from the rooftops or a low-key carefully judged silence. We chose the latter. While the film is showing an abstract documentary of IB on the road, there's a parallel story being told which is even more abstract, believe it or not. This makes me think of Charles Ives' thoughts on different musical pieces meeting. Entirely in the spirit of IB. Brilliant!

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Don't forget to check out website regularly! [www.isildursbane.se](http://www.isildursbane.se)

Best wishes from Isildurs Bane!

Thomas Olsson  
Newsletter editor

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