



Newsletter June 2005

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1) **IB EP**

Due to popular demand, we have decided to release the new songs from *MIND Vol. 5: The Observatory* on an EP. As a bonus, you will find the previously unreleased track *No Choice (I'm Still Here)*, with music by Mats and lyrics by Mariette.

Our intention is to release more EP in the future. This is just the beginning. All the EPs will be pressed in a *limited edition of 1000 copies* and they will contain material previously unreleased on CD. Maybe new songs, perhaps some theatre music or why not an improvisation? Only time will tell. Actually, that's not true strictly speaking. I will tell you in our newsletters.

The track listing for the EP is:

1. People are Afraid
2. Without Grace
3. Under the Wind
4. No Choice (I'm Still Here)

The official release date is June 15th.

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2) **MIND Vol. 2 back in June!**

It's been a long time, but we have finally come `round to ordering *MIND Vol. 2: Live again*. If everything goes according to plan, the shipment should arrive at IB HQ in a week or two.

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3) **The Voyage sold out**

The final copy of the third edition of The Voyage was sold to a happy customer in Gothenburg last week. This means that this CD will be TEMPORARILY out of print for a short period.

We will consider a new layout to go with the fourth edition.

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4) A short report from IB in Italy...

As every faithful newsletter reader knows, IB have now performed in Italy for the first time as a solo act at the Sesto ArtrOck festival. With Metamorfoosi Trio, IB have played in Italy before, of course.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we couldn't bring the full DVD line-up, which made things a bit complicated since we had to perform without Klas. Nevertheless we decided to go ahead and make the best of it by trying out a new line-up (Jonas, Kjell, "Gicken", Mats, Mariette & Linnea).

The result was IB' longest concert ever. Approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes filled with material from Cheval to MIND Vol. 4. We like to think we give the audience good value for money.

Since Italy is very special to us, we decided to give our Italian friends a treat. It was obvious to us that we wanted to feature our dear friends Metamorfoosi Trio in some way. Unfortunately, Franco Feruglio couldn't participate, so we decided to let Christian Saggese start the proceedings by playing Ginastera's sonata and a beautiful solo guitar version of Open. Later on in the set, Luca Calabrese came onstage to play a stunning solo on Rage and he remained for a remarkable take on Celestial Vessel. If you get an opportunity to check these guys out, DO IT!

Other surprises included IB digging out Initiation from Cheval, which hasn't been performed since our appearance at NEARfest in 2002. Also, Mats was featured on vocals for the first time since the late 1980's. The main vocals were excellently handled by Mariette brilliantly assisted by Linnea (also performing stunningly on a brand new electric cello).

We thought the festival was well organised and the people behind it deserve a lot of praise for all their work. Hats off to them! It was a treat for us to meet so many new and old IB fans after the concert. It seems as if there is a very good balance between people who have never heard us before but love what we do, and people who have everything in IB's back catalogue. Our appearance at this festival confirms that we love performing in Italy and we can't wait to get back there again!

Sunday was spent in Penango, making plans for the future with Metamorfoosi Trio. But in a new way. You will hear about these plans (yes, they are plural) eventually.



Kjell, Thomas, Linnea, Jonas, Mariette and Gicken waiting for Luca, our guide to Penango, at Malpensa airport.

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5) ...and Gothenburg

The concert in Gothenburg last Friday was another interesting story. Only the day before was it decided what the line-up would look like. Everybody was invited and guess what? Everybody came, meaning that the line-up was identical to the DVD line-up. It was great to have Klas and his big percussion rig back and to have Janne doing the sound is means so much to us. Let me rephrase that. No one does IB's sound better. Period.

As you can understand, the setting was optimal and we got extra help from the organizers who had gone to great lengths to make us feel good. Thanks for the food and the snacks Micke! You know we appreciated it!

The setlist was a slightly abbreviated version of the concert at Sesto but equally good. The same can be said about the audience. Very appreciative, great people who said many kind things to the band afterwards.

For pictures of the concert, go to http://artrock.se/Isildurs_Bane.htm

For those of you who understand Swedish, here's a link to an interview with Mats and Mariette prior to the concert in Gothenburg:
<http://www.gp.se/gp/road/Classic/shared/printArticle.jsp?d=417&a=216471>

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6) What's that thing?

After every IB concert or workshop, people come up to Mats and ask him about "that blue thing you wave your hands above". What is it? I asked Mats to inform you.

Mats: It is a device made by Alesis called AirFX. Many people think it is an expensive thing, but that is not the case. I only paid about 2000 Swedish kronor (€ 220/\$ 275) for it. It had been on a shelf in the music shop for a long time, it was scratched and unwanted. I think you can still order it for 3500 Skr. [actually, Musikbörsen sell it for 1995 Skr, editor's note].



An Alesis AirFX is like a multi-effects pedal with chorus, flanger, lowpassfilter etc. I use it for my Nord Lead. By moving your hand above the unit the effects level changes according to my moves. You don't even have to use your hands. Once I saw a guitarist using an AirFX. He controlled it with his feet. Anyway, this means that instead of getting just effect on or effect off (as you do with pedals in general), I can decide on the spur of the moment and change levels seamlessly.

To control things without physically touching them looks weird and suspicious. But believe me, the pedal is bonafide and absolutely for professional use. I can really recommend it.

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7) Your questions

This section has been a bit neglected I am sorry to say. A change is gonna come, starting here and now.

Here are two questions that several people have asked, our new Italian friend Ruggero for instance who asked:

- I really have appreciated the songs from MIND Vol IV (especially the versions with all female vocals), that, anyway, I still consider enough different from the previous productions, being morewell, song oriented (you know what I mean: simple harmonies, less intricate rhythmic parts...)

Mats: Well, the way you describe it, you do have a point, but for me it was 36 months of hard work, so it has taken its fair share of time. For me, it is not simpler in any way. I would go as far as saying that MIND Vol. 4 was harder to write than, say "The Voyage". When it comes to the rhythmic side of things I would say MIND Vol. 4 is different but hardly easier. We play against loops and have intricate percussion parts that are hard to position in the musical picture.

Kjell and Klas have worked on their rhythmical interplay for many years now. As a composer, what can you do but enjoy it and use them? Generally speaking, it takes 15 years for a string quartet to get tight. Klas and Kjell are getting there! Linnea and Mariette (and Anna) are fantastic, and Christoph Jeppsson's voice and musical feeling is very unique. It is a joy to work with musicians like these.

Next question:

– Which direction do you plan to take in the future?

Mats: Difficult question. No one knows. There is material for at least three CDs with completely different directions, even film music. We will just have to wait and see.

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8) No more Muse-wrapped

Isildurs Bane songs can no longer be downloaded from Muse-wrapped records. A moderate success, the owners will move on and start using a different platform. Therefore, all business on digital distribution via Muse-wrapped has been concluded with immediate effect.

We are already looking into new digital distribution systems for our music. More news

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Don't forget to check out website regularly! www.isildursbane.se

Best wishes from Isildurs Bane!

Thomas Olsson
Newsletter editor

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