



Newsletter May 2005

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1) **IB to play in Milan**

On Saturday, May 14th, Isildurs Bane will headline the first part of the AltrOck Sesto Art Rock Music Festival at Milan, Italy. The festival will take place at the Teatro Elena and feature three more bands apart from IB (Gecko's Tear, The Watch and Arti e Mestieri). Isildurs Bane are expected to be on stage around 17:30 and will play for approximately 75+ minutes. Expect the unexpected at this concert.

The people behind the festival have expressed their ideas thusly: "The desire to promote a music genre able to address both heart and mind, pushed us to organize an event combining music and culture that had been missing for years in Italy. Our plan is to organize this festival every year. Only your attendance will turn the first Sesto Art Rock Music Festival into the beginning of an adventure. Now, it all depends upon you... MAKE IT HAPPEN!!!"

More information at www.altrock.it and www.agarthaprog.com

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2) **... and in Moncalvo**

Our trusted friend Franco Feruglio has set up a concert in Moncalvo (near Asti) on Sunday May 15th to get us playing as much as possible in Italy. As of this writing, the concert is likely to go ahead, but not 100% confirmed. Go to our website www.isildursbane.se for confirmation and details in a week or so. You can also mail thomas@isildursbane.se for more information.

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3) ... and in Gothenburg

On Friday 20th May, IB will perform at Frölunda Kulturhus in Gothenburg. The concert starts at 19.30. More info at: http://www.artrock.se/Isidurs_Bane.htm

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4) A report from Portugal

Yours truly was present at the Gouveia Art Rock festival on April 9th and 10th at Gouveia, Portugal. There are many reasons to go to Portugal in general and Gouveia in particular, but my reason was to represent Isildurs Bane by selling CDs, meeting people, spreading the word about IB and holding a keynote speech on "Progressive music today" at a seminar on progressive music held during the festival.

The response to my presentation was heartening. Support and kind words came from listeners, composers, organizers and musicians. Some of you are even readers of this newsletter, so thank you for your support! I have been asked by several people to publicize my paper, and I promise you that I will. Just let me revise it and add some remarks from the informal discussions I had the pleasure to be a part of during the festival.

Record sales were excellent! I had the pleasure of meeting many new IB fans, many who had not heard IB, but heard OF the band since last years excellent performance at Gouveia. I heard fantastic stories about people crying tears of happiness after last year's IB concert, somebody else telling me that IB and Miriodor were the two band that made him take an active interest in music again; stories about people meeting through IB's music; experiencing things with IB's music in their headphones. Surreal, but very very nice to hear!

It was great meeting so many nice people at this truly wonderful festival. Thank you to Dave Oberlé (Gryphon), Manuel Cardoso (Tantra), Lars Hollmer, Samuel Jerónimo, Vladimir Omelchenko, Miriodor and Arena.

A big thank you to Carlos and Eduardo (a job very well done!); Nuno, Ze and Paulo (thanks for teaching me useful words and entertaining me with hilarious stories); Mario (our man in Portugal!); Fred (always a true gentleman and a musical soulmate); Cátia (very nice to meet you) and last but not least to my host Luis who made my stay something I will never forget! With an organization like this, you can't go wrong. Anything's possible.



A good time was had by (left to right) Thomas, Luís & Nuno

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5) The Gouveia Art Rock DVD

At the Gouveia Art Rock festival (see above), a DVD featuring most of last year's artists was released. Of special interest to you: there are 11 IB tracks on it (the other artists are: La torre dell'alchimista, Periferia del mondo and Fernando Guiomar)!

The whole DVD is three hours long, IB's part clocking in at approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes. The IB songs on this DVD are:

- Arch
- Heal (intro)
- Good
- Open
- Eyes
- Idea
- Holy Fools
- Cage
- Unity
- The Pilot
- The Voyage (parts 1-4)

The line-up on this DVD includes Joachim Gustafsson on violin (on The Voyage), which is just one of several things that makes this DVD different from MIND Vol. 5: The Observatory. The setlist's different, the lighting's different, Mats is wearing a different shirt, the sound is different, the footage is different...

The producers have done a great job of capturing the intimate and extremely friendly atmosphere of the Gouveia festival to DVD. Everything from the cover to the video editing is of the highest standard. I could go on and on and on and on about this, but I think you know what I am getting at, don't you?

This is an essential purchase for any IB enthusiast!

Convinced? Good. Now buy it from our friends:

www.justforkicks.de
www.progcds.com

www.recordheaven.net

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6) Further reactions to MIND Vol. 5: The Observatory

The good reviews of MIND Vol. 5: The Observatory keep coming! Here's what some people have said recently:

"From a musical point of view, I have no objections; it all comes together wonderfully well and the band hold the reins firmly in their hands. It's what you call harmony and unity. [...] From a musical standpoint I can only recommend the band Isildurs Bane; what I have heard here has impressed at least me deeply."

www.wallsoffire.com

"For those who have never seen Isildurs Bane live, now is your chance to take it all in. [...] all the songs are skilfully played and the fantastic guitar playing by Jonas Christophs and the gorgeous singing of Mariette Hansson and Linnea Olsson deserve an honourable mention. Isildurs Bane is an experience that you must try. Let yourself be strung along by their eccentric approach to music and enjoy the delicious symphonic moments and the beautiful vocals and guitar solos. This DVD gives you the chance to create your own image with this wonderful music. I recommend it!"

Jany, www.prog-nose.com

"Harmonies frequently like King Crimson, rhythmically equipped with a large portion of Pink Floyd and vocally, because of the melodic high-class female voices with a touch of Alanis Morissette throughout, Isildurs Bane present a collage of sounds, loops and trance [...]"

Axel "Ironfinger" Ritt, www.sonny1968.de

"I'm amazed and grateful that [Isildurs Bane] have the untiring stamina to continue and constantly develop their unique music. [...] it's a pleasure watching the them perform their eccentric pieces live."

Mårten Samuelsson, Hallands Nyheter www.hn.se

"Isildurs Bane was, until Mind Vol. 5, another of those bands I had heard of but had yet to consciously listen to, and so I hadn't a clue what to expect. After only 5 minutes I had two questions; why hadn't any of my prog 'deranged' friends demanded that I listen to Isildurs Bane and why is this band not as well-known as, say, Pink Floyd, Jethro Tull, King Crimson etc.? [...] The quality of the arrangements and the highly polished performance from these

musician's musicians places Isildurs Bane in the top tier of progressive outfits, and I'm thinking in terms of those other bands being in their prime - King Crimson, Gong, Tull, etc."

"Whatever the band was like when it started out, they now have a refreshingly original sound. Among the masterpieces, my personal favourite, Idea, features both on the main feature and the bonus video material. It is easy to forget that Isildurs Bane is in fact a Swedish band as the vocals are in perfect English and, to be perfectly frank, I wish they were based in the UK if only for the opportunity to see them in concert on a regular basis."

"To echo the interviewee at the start of the DVD, I had never heard their music before and am now totally in love. Unless you have an allergy to music DVDs (and strangely, some do) this has to be an essential purchase. And be prepared to allocate at least four hours when the DVD arrives because you will be certain to watch it twice without pause."

Jem Jedrzejewski, <http://www.hairlessheartherald.co.uk>

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7) Workshops in Varberg and Laholm

During April, we have had the pleasure of doing more workshops. Schools in Katrineberg, Varberg and Laholm have been visited and it has been a pleasure for us as usual to meet, talk and perform with young people.

It is also interesting to see how every workshop turns into a unique happening. In Katrineberg, IB performed a pedagogical concert with longer talks in-between songs; during our two days in Varberg, we talked about the ever-changing music scene, the music business, technology, performing rights organizations and followed this with a clinic demoing the instruments.

In Laholm and Varberg, the students learned how to play Cage, instructed personally by IB. We have done this before, and the results are always amazing considering the limited amount of time the students have to get it right. In Laholm, for instance, a horn section was added much to our pleasant surprise. Klas stepped in and arranged the horn parts. What a hero! Interestingly we also had lots of keyboard players and loads of vocalists performing in Laholm.



Klas' horn section from Laholm

In Laholm, we had the pleasure of meeting former IB trumpet player Jan-Ove Nilsson (featured on Sea Reflections and Eight Moments of Eternity). Memories from the mid-80's came back to Kjell, Mats and Jan-Ove. Great to eavesdrop on! Lookout for Jan-Ove as profile of the month soon!

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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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