

Mark Cross – Press kit

Nationality: UK - DE
Instrument: Drums
Producer / Songwriter

Resident: London, UK – Lavrio, GR
Band: Tank, Joe Stump´s Tower of Babel

mccross.com

youtube.com/MarkCrossDrums - facebook.com/MarkCrossDrums - instagram.com/markcrossdrums - twitter.com/markcrossdrums

::: PRESS INFO :::

EARLY DAYS

Mark Cross was born in London, England on August 2, father English and mother German. He grew up in a musical environment and started playing drums at the age of 9.

Greatly influenced by Billy Cobham, Steve Gadd, Gene Krupa, Ian Paice, John Bonham, Keith Moon, Michael Shrieve and Mick Tucker in the mid and late seventies, Neil Peart, Cozy Powell, Nicko McBrain and Simon Philips in the eighties and nineties he managed to develop his own style in drumming.

Mark grew up in three countries and speaks fluent English, German, Greek and some French.

Over the past 30 years he has been working with known international bands and artists, released over 54 albums, CD´s and DVD´s, which gave him a great reputation in the international music industry as a musician and as a drummer.

CAREER

Mark has worked and toured with some of the greatest, he fit in for the Scorpions at the Grand Prix Formula 1 in Bahrain on April 5 in 2014, released with Greek metal band Firewind (2005 - 2010) 3 singles, 3 studio albums, a double live CD and an in concert DVD and toured with them extensively all over the world for 5 years.

He has worked with bass legend Marco Mendoza (Dead Daisies, Thin Lizzy, Whitesnake), German metal legends Helloween (2001 – 2003), Deep Purple´s frontman Ian Gillan in 1993 and Joe Lynn Turner in 2017, with gold selling rock band Kingdom Come in 2000, the Vivaldi Metal Project, featuring on both studio albums and the limited Live Premieres CD & DVD (2018 – 2020) and many others.

In 2010 Mark announced the birth of UK band Tainted Nation alongside Pete Newdeck, ex Grim Reaper´s drummer on lead vocals, Ian Nash (Lionsheart, Steve Grimmet), on guitar, Pontus Egberg, bass player of King Diamond and former Scandinavian rock sensation «The Poodles» and Joel Peters on guitars and vocals, today´s frontman of former Motorhead guitarist Phil Campbell & The Bastard Sons.

They released their highly acclaimed first album «F.E.A.R.» in 2013 via Massacre Records, headlined Spain and the UK in 2015 and played a few European and UK Festivals.

In 2016 they released their second studio album «On the outside» with German label Pride and Joy.

In 2011/12 he also toured with nwobhm band TANK.

Since 2016 Mark has been focusing a lot on studio recordings and has released in four years 9 studio albums for God´s Army (IRE) 2018 & 2021, Vanishing Signs (CH / IT) 2019, Tower of Babel (USA) 2017 & 2023, Gernegger (DE) 2017, Keado Mores (GR) 2016, Vivaldi Metal Project (IT) 2016, Wolfpakk (CH) 2019, Rezident Ex (RO) 2017 and a live DVD with the Vivaldi Metal Project in 2019.

Mark also features in many interviews in various international drum magazines (Sticks, Drums & Percussion, Sick drummer, Drum Magazine....

54 + ALBUMS LATER ...

Mark is currently in the studio mixing the 2nd album of "Joe Stump´s Tower of Babel". As a founding member alongside Boston´s Berklee rock guitar professor "The Shredlord" Joe Stump, he not only played the drums, but also took the production under his wings. A release date has not been



::: Booking + Contact :::



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confirmed yet.

Mark said in a recent interview: "In the first months of 2020 I packed my bags and decided to move to Greece and leave the northern European political madness behind and start from scratch.

Being familiar with the country I decided to build my studio in the south of Attica, near Athens and when we decided to record a new TOB album with our new singer Jo Amore on board, I took it all under my wings. We recorded my drums and most of the vocals in my "Drum Dungeon Studio" and took the mix in August 2023 to the "Studio Aspiotis" in Athens.

The reason for this was the machinery the studio had to offer. Analog! I wanted the new TOB album to sound close to the 70's and 80's high profile productions. Knowing digital and modern machinery processed albums sounding all the same, I knew it was the only way to get our energy and authentic playing sounding right, and our music has the classic rock metal touch and it needs its transparency and needs to breathe.

I certainly do hope for the best reception with this album, it truly deserves it. Great songs, great performance on everybody's end and the sound is massive!"

In September '23 Mark also re joined nwobhm pioneers "Tank", who are currently in the studio recording a new album with their new powerful line up.

Tank will set foot to the US for the first time in nearly 40 years on the Hells 'n Heroes VII festival on March 24, 2024 in Houston, TX and will announce a US headline tour and festival schedule in November 2023.

In the past two years Mark has also been writing his solo album featuring some of the greatest musicians in the industry under the moniker **OCEAN'S EYE**

Ocean's Eye was first announced as a "Best of Mark Cross live in concert" in December 2019, but promotion quickly stopped due to Covid 19. Promotion, bookings and future plans went south and since everything has changed today, the project lies on ice until budgets allow a new booking.

TEACHING?

Mark also teaches sometimes and gave drum clinics and seminars in the past, presenting his playing skills through Rock – Metal and Fusion, drum solos and improvisation.

He also worked for SAE School of audio engineering presenting masterclasses showing drum recording techniques and sharing live experience and an overall point of view and thoughts about drumming and the industry.

His playing style is rock, technically skilled with a great groovy feel! Mark's playing also shows his great jazz influences.

With two past recording studio businesses in Germany and Greece in the pocket, he today records from his Drum Dungeon Studio at home in Greece.

Mark's quote:

«You don't have to be a famous Musician to work with famous Musicians! I'm keen to play and record the drums for everyone. My Studio is well equipped and am very focused on good sounding drums. I made sure to build a great sounding booth, equipped with great vintage mics, a top selection of Tama drums, vintage tube analog pre amps and compressors, two UAD Apollo x8p's, Neve & WA technology, Avid Pro Tools and a MAC!»

OUTRO

Respect and loyalty!

Simple two words and so hard to maintain..... respect and loyalty to your partners, to the ones you work with, to the ones you lovethat's my code! I love being on the road, I love playing my drums and create music, I am the happiest man when I swing my sticks, ride my Harley or set my sails..... but all the world's a stage. I am a performer and if you take that away from me, I'm gone!

It's hard to find the right people, determined as me who trust and believe, the industry has taught and showed me many traps, in the end its only business.

It's a circle of life (Firewind song, Mark Cross 2008)

