
THE RUSS BERGQUIST PROJECT

Russ Bergquist is a Canadian bass guitarist and composer who has recorded and/or performed with the bands **ANNIHILATOR**, **THE THICK OF IT**, **JAR**, **DUSKMACHINE**, **Vivien Lulu**, **ZOMBIE CHECK**, **DEATH ASSEMBLY**, **WHITE WOLF** and **TOUCH THE SUN**.

Born and raised in the central Saskatchewan, Russ' musical journey began at the age of 14 when he participated in the school band as a percussionist. Moving to guitar (and ultimately bass guitar), it wasn't long before Russ formed his first band - a metal outfit called **MAD HATTER**.

Russ spent the next few years cutting his teeth in a variety of club bands throughout Western Canada, eventually settling in Edmonton (Alberta) where he formed the band **FREAKS BY NATURE**. Relocating to Vancouver in 1991, **FREAKS BY NATURE** released a self-titled album in 1997.

In 1999, Russ graduated to the international stage as the bassist in Canadian Heavy Metal Legends **ANNIHILATOR**, a position he would hold intermittently until 2007. As a member of **ANNIHILATOR**, Russ played on 2003's *"Double Live Annihilation"* album and toured extensively throughout Europe including festival appearances at Wacken Open Air and Bang Your Head.

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"Having worked as a sideman / hired gun in Annihilator, and creating music with many other artists, I really wanted a project that was entirely mine, done on my own terms, my own way. So I started writing songs and just let the creativity flow".

Written and recorded over several years, the collection of songs on **THE RUSS BERGQUIST PROJECT** are just that - Russ' songs done the way he envisioned them to sound.



The album showcases Russ on bass, rhythm guitar and background vocals, and features a cast of special guest players: Drummers Ray Hartmann (**ANNIHILATOR**) and Ryan Van Poederoyen (**DEVIN TOWNSEND PROJECT**); Keyboardists Dave Young (**DEVIN TOWNSEND PROJECT**) and Vivien Lulu; Guitarists Scott Webb, Joop Wolters, Brian Poulsen, Alex Roque and Jeff Loomis (**ARCH ENEMY**, **NEVERMORE**). Mark Petri contributes vocals to 7 of the 9 tracks, the latter 2 being instrumentals.

Collaborating with so many world-class musicians produced amazing results, but also contributed to the lengthy production time. Russ explains: *"This project took a lot longer than I had originally envisioned, but ultimately I am pleased with it and proud of it"*.

Currently Russ resides in the Vancouver area and plays with the bands **TOUCH THE SUN** and **THE THICK OF IT**.