

The Temptation Department

Tor Dybdahl - A Short Biography

In 1982 the band The French Connection consisting of Rune Annaniassen (The Cut, Kid Death and the Nightshades, Diamond Dogs, Matchstick Sun, Popcorn Explosion, Merchants of Venus & Sister Rain), Erik Avskog (Clockwork Orange, Kid Death and the Nightshades), Trond Pettersen (Horsemen) and Tor Dybdahl recorded a demo cassette under quite primitive conditions. When in London, a few months later, Dybdahl went by Virgin Records in Portobello Road and left the Memorex Cassette at the reception desk. The tape had early recordings of both Sensation Boys and Wonderland recorded on a two track reel to reel without any drums. When returning to Norway the rejection letter came and that was the end of that. In the years to come Dybdahl continued to use the name on various recording sessions.

In 1984 Avskog and Dybdahl were recording a bunch of songs in Oslo and asked Jan Berg (Blue Mathue) to join them. They formed the band Clockwork Orange and continued to record two songs at Clan Studio in Halden. Dybdahl founded Temptation Records and they released the 7-inch single Sensation Boys. The single did well, it sold out during the summer of '85 and was later that year voted the second spot as Single of the Year by the readers of Puls Magazine only beat by Take on Me by aha.

The band continued to record an album but split up due to internal disputes without releasing it. Dybdahl kept recording with both Avskog and Berg on separate occasions.

The second record, also a 7-inch single, to be released on Temptation Records was Downers with December Rain. Downers are Dybdahl's side-project with his longtime friend Geir Sinding, they still record together from time to time and did release a five-track CD called UpTown early 2017.

In 1987 Dybdahl formed Horsemen when releasing the 7-inch single Mr. Sunrise. Horsemen were a trio, guitars, bass and vocals along with seven synthesizers and two rhythm machines all programmed on a Roland MC 500. The line up was Matti Hansen (NIC, Kundalini) on guitar, Atle Memo on Bass, with his disappearing Trond Pettersen took over and with his disappearing Kim Tangen (Kundalini) became the permanent bass player.

Horsemen played live throughout the eighties before collapsing completely in '92. During 2010/2011 Dybdahl performed live on three occasions using the name Horsemen but this time as a duo with Jan Berg.

The double CD compilation Maskindans -Norsk synth 1980-1988 released in 2009 had recordings from three of Dybdahl's bands, Clockwork Orange, Horsemen and Downers. Hommage Records main man Øystein Moe showed a keen interest in Dybdahl's work and together they released two compilation albums (Both 12-inch vinyl LP's and CD's with bonus tracks) consisting of Dybdahl's recordings from the eighties with his four bands. The Temptation Tapes - Volume I was released in 2010 and The Temptation Tapes - Volume II in 2014.

In 2015 Dybdahl released his first solo work a digital single called Storm were he plays all instruments as well as engineering, producing, mastering and designing the cover.

To celebrate the thirty year anniversary of their first release Temptation put together a four-track CD with a re-make, a remix and a remastered version of the song Sensation Boys in 2015.

In 2015 Dybdahl teamed up with his old pal Kjartan Kristiansen (DumDum Boys, The Beste, Tweeter Friendly Music) in Amper Tone Studio. On different occasions over the next couple years, they recorded some of Dybdahl's songs.

On these sessions, they recorded with a five-piece rock band, vocals, guitars, bass, keyboards and drums. This provided a rawer more organic feel to the soundscape surrounding Dybdahl's lyrics and vocals than the electronic machine driven that he's usually associated with.

By the time the work was done twelve songs were selected for the LP and CD World Astray Dybdahl's first full-length solo album to be released November 2017.