

FREE
New Power Files Chapter 20
The music is out there. Songs and
PDF interviews for readers to download

POWER

PLAY

ROCK & METAL MAGAZINE



Former H.E.A.T singer Erik Grönwall
burns even hotter in his new band!

Issue 255 - September 2022 - £5.95



BLIND GUARDIAN **FIVE FINGER DEATH PUNCH** **STRATOVARIUS**

the start of a new era

explore the afterlife

jawdropping new album

STATUS QUO **GOO GOO DOLLS** **MACHINE HEAD** **AMON AMARTH**

BLOODBATH **SPIRIT** **ADRIFT** **WOLFHEART** **ERJA LYTTINEN** **THE MILK MEN** **BUZZED & LOADED** **FRASER EDWARDS**

A-Z **STEVE HILL** **BAD LUCK** **FRIDAY** **IMMORTAL** **SYNN** **BLACKTOOTHED** **APEIRON** **BOUND** **IRON WINGS** **CAELI**

CHAPTER 20 THE NEW POWER FILES

Welcome to Chapter 20 of The New Power Files, featuring 70 of the best new rock and metal songs – free for you to download.

To grab the mp3 files, band info, and Nicky's 'The Music Is Out There' PDF interviews, go to www.powerplaymagazine.co.uk. Click on the Power Files tab and then the link to download the zip file for The New Power Files Chapter 20. Enter the pass code when prompted. It should be straightforward but if you have any problems with downloading the files, give us a call on 0161 3391035. Enjoy the music!

Here's the exclusive code for Powerplay readers: **BA77** (the pass code is case-sensitive and the link will expire at the end of March 2023).

- Group 1: Hard Rock, Melodic Hard Rock And AOR
1. **Cobra Cobra 'The Conquering'**
From the album: 'Life After Poison'
www.facebook.com/cobracobramusicofficial
2. **Raider 'Runaway'**
From the album: 'Runaway'
www.facebook.com/raidermusicuk
3. **Mick White 'Without You'**
From the album: 'Something's Got To Give'
www.mickwhite.co.uk
4. **Ray Gilman 'It's Been A Long Day'**
From the album: 'Think For Yourself'
www.raygilman.com
5. **BoneDryver 'Workin' Man (feat. David Reece)'**
From the album: 'Valley Of Bones'
www.facebook.com/NCBonedryver
6. **Mississippi Bones 'The Alligator Man Of Champaign Co.'**
From the album: 'Creature Features And Cult Classics'
www.facebook.com/mississippibones
7. **Black Sand 'Life's So Tough'**
From the album: 'Life's So Tough'
<https://www.blacksand.at>
8. **The Garage Band 'Ghosts And Shadows'**
From the album: 'Full Service'
www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100083259734502
9. **Sianar 'Rise'**
From the album: 'Seasons'
www.sianarofficial.com
10. **Ghost Avenue 'Hero'**
From the album: 'Even Angels Fall'
www.facebook.com/ghostavenue
11. **Kill City 'Pretend'**
From the album: 'Civilized To Death'
www.facebook.com/KillcityEC
12. **Colder Suns 'Fight For The Skies'**
From the album: 'ExDisplay'
www.coldersuns.com
13. **Unchain 'Stoney Path'**
From the album: 'Faith'
www.unchain.ch
14. **Love Parade 'Tonight'**
From the album: 'Time Goes By'
www.facebook.com/Loveparadetheband
15. **Christopher Phipps 'Sunset Summer Memories'**
From the album: 'Sunset Summer Memories'
www.facebook.com/londonexchange88
16. **Broken Wings 'Broken Bones'**
From the album: 'Against The Wind'
www.facebook.com/rockBrokenWings
17. **H27 'Deceiver Cries For Redemption'**
From the album: 'Dark Skies Filled With Lies'
www.htwenty7.net
18. **Lost Circus 'This Place Is Mad'**
From the album: 'Lost Circus'
- www.lostcircusofficial.com
19. **The Paramount Trip 'Amelie'**
From the album: 'Moment In Time'
www.theparamounttrip.com
20. **Utopia Press '10000 Worries'**
From the album: 'Utopia Press'
www.utopiapress.ca
- Group 2: Classic Rock, Blues Rock, Indie And Americana
21. **Mississippi Heat 'Madeleine'**
From the album: 'Madeleine'
www.mississippiheat.net
22. **Hughes Taylor 'Quarantine Blues'**
From the album: 'Modern Nostalgia'
www.hughestaylormusic.com
23. **Sons Of Mars 'I Lost The Blues'**
From the album: 'Hell And Heartbreak'
<https://sonsofmarsofficial.bandcamp.com>
24. **The Electric Petals 'Wild At Heart'**
From the album: 'Wild At Heart'
www.instagram.com/theelectricpetals
25. **Mireille Mathlener Band 'The Nightingale'**
From the album: 'The Invisible Blitz'
www.mmband.co.uk
26. **Handsome Karnivore 'Children Of The Corn'**
From the album: 'False Idols'
www.instagram.com/karnivore_kollective_service/?hl=en
- Group 3: Heavy Metal, Power Metal, Symphonic Metal, Thrash, Death Metal, Metcore And Black Metal
27. **Lodestar 'Go On Without Me'**
From the album: 'Event Horizon'
www.instagram.com/lodestar.band
28. **Poison Garden 'The Tin Man'**
From the album: 'Army of Dreamers'
www.instagram.com/poisongardenband
29. **Chronomancy 'Up With The Phoenix'**
From the album: 'Shadows In Atlantis'
www.chronomancyband.com
30. **Ewinar 'Against the Stream'**
From the album: 'Burning The Night'
www.facebook.com/ewinariofficial
31. **Taegan 'Primal Paradox'**
From the album: 'Primal Paradox'
www.facebook.com/taeganofficial
32. **Bioscrape 'Post Empathy'**
From the album: 'Hell Or Reality'
www.bioscrape.net
33. **Zacky Sickness 'Will Anyone Be There'**
From the album: 'Storm The Gates'
www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100082740762598
34. **Obsidian Black 'Lost Life In A Beautiful Storm'**
From the album: 'Judgement Day'
www.obsidianblack.rock
35. **Nightivity 'Annabelle'**
From the album: 'Deathsurrection'
- www.instagram.com/nightivityofficial
36. **Quasimodo 'Cancer City'**
From the album: 'Cancer City'
www.facebook.com/Quasi.Modo.Bln
37. **Dissident 'Shred'**
From the album: 'Shred'
www.dissidentthrash.com
38. **Ascendor 'Circle Of Violence'**
From the album: 'Circle Of Violence'
www.facebook.com/ascendormetal
39. **Howling Wolves 'Eye Of The Storm'**
From the album: 'As Above So Below'
www.facebook.com/howlingwolvesberlin
40. **Dekta 'When Everything Burns'**
From the album: 'When Everything Burns'
www.dektaband.com
- Group 4: Progressive Rock And Psychedelic
41. **Subspace Radio 'The Day of the Brightest Colours (feat. Kimmo Blom)'**
From the album: 'AIKA'
www.subspaceradio.fi
42. **Shurakay 'The Book of Nises'**
From the album: 'Overseas Tales'
www.facebook.com/SHURAKAY269185559880052
43. **Laughing Stock 'The Call'**
From the album: 'Zero, Acts 3&4'
www.laughingstock1.bandcamp.com
44. **Scott Reed's String Theory 'The New Dawn'**
From the album: 'Regenesis'
www.facebook.com/ScottReedsStringTheory
45. **Gilmore Trail 'Echoes of Solitude'**
From the album: 'Impermanence'
www.gilmoretrail.co.uk
- Group 5: Alternative Rock And Metal, Indie, And Goth
46. **800 Years Of Coma 'Fabulous Spectre'**
From the album: 'Placebo'
www.facebook.com/800yoComa
47. **Steadfast 'Someone Else'**
From the album: 'High And Dry'
www.facebook.com/steadfastrocks
48. **Strain Of Madness 'I Know'**
From the album: 'The Jack'
www.facebook.com/strainofmadness
49. **Dylan Connor 'Everything'**
From the album: 'Infinity Days'
www.dylanconnor.com
50. **Red Swamp 'Goddamn'**
From the album: 'Time To Die'
www.redswampband.com
- Group 6: The Editor's Collection
51. **Buzzed & Loaded 'Rip It Up'**
From the album: 'Fast Cars & Dive Bars'
www.buzzedandloaded.com
52. **Slyder Smith & The Oblivion Kids 'Oblivion Kids'**
From the album: 'Charm Offensive'
www.slydersmith.com
53. **Fraser Edwards 'The Prophet'**
From the album: 'The Reckoning'
www.fraseredwards.net
54. **Iron Wings 'The Raven'**
From the album: 'Ritual Of Rage'
www.facebook.com/ironwingsband
55. **Immortal Synn 'State Oppression'**
From the album: '7 Synns'
www.facebook.com/immortalsynnmusic
56. **Caeli 'Mary And Jane'**
From the album: 'Tied Together'
www.facebook.com/Caeliband
57. **Apeiron Bound 'Eleutheromania feat. Angel Vivaldi (Radio Edit)'**
From the album: 'Multiplicity'
www.facebook.com/apeironboundmusic
58. **White Tyger 'Skum Town'**
From the album: 'This Is The Life'
www.facebook.com/whitetygerrock
59. **Tonic Breed 'Fuel The Fire'**
From the EP: 'Fuel The Fire'
www.facebook.com/tonicbreed
60. **Figure Of Speechless 'Inside Room 6'**
From the album: 'Tunnel At The End Of The Light'
www.facebook.com/figureofspeechlessmusic
61. **Cthulhu Dreamt 'EDGe Before Nothing'**
From the upcoming EP: 'Precursor'
www.facebook.com/CthulhuDreamt
62. **Emotional Suicide 'Emotional Suicide'**
From the album: 'Emotional Suicide'
www.facebook.com/Emotional-Suicide-108551585035931
63. **Grandval 'Heinrich (un monde bien étrange)'**
From the album: 'Eau | Feu'
www.facebook.com/grandvalmusic
64. **Takeaway Thieves 'Lose It'**
From the album: '9'
www.takeawaythieves.com
65. **Bells And Ravens 'Scourge Of The Seven Seas (feat. Zak Stevens)'**
From the album: 'What Death Cannot End'
www.facebook.com/bellsandravensofficial
66. **Bladecrusher 'Mercenaries'**
From the EP: 'Tempest'
www.facebook.com/bladecrusher
67. **Mirror Queen 'Inviolate'**
From the album: 'Inviolate'
www.facebook.com/mirrorqueennyc
68. **Grace Solero 'Awake'**
From the album: 'Metamorphosis'
www.facebook.com/GraceSolero
69. **Blue Nation 'Come Back Home'**
From the EP: 'Echoes'
www.blunation.co.uk
70. **NFD 'Remain In Chains (Remastered)'**
From the album: 'Requiem From The Abyss'
www.nfdworld.co.uk

62 ROSE HILL ROAD
ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE
OL6 8HR
UNITED KINGDOM
Tel: 0161 3391035
(Mon-Fri 9am-6pm)

www.powerplaymagazine.co.uk
info@powerplaymagazine.co.uk

EDITOR

Mark Hoaksey

Tel 0044 (0)161 3391035

E-mail: info@powerplaymagazine.co.uk

THE POWERPLAYERS

Mike Ainscoe, Nick Baldrian,
Claire Bannister, Keith Bryant,
Ms D, Elinor Day, Tim Delany,
Rob Evans, Mik Gaffney,
Welsh Gene, Martin Harris,
Adrian Hextall, Anna Hoaksey,
Alex Holmes, Andy Houghton,
Martin Howell, Duncan Jamieson,
Chris Kee, Mark Lacey,
Rhiannon Lane, B A Martin,
Adam McCann, Roland Oei,
Tony Pijar, Andy Pountney,
David Robinson, Chelsea Smile,
Smudge, Matt Stevenson,
Chris Sutton, Steve Swift,
Bruce Turnbull, Geoff Wootton

TRADE DISTRIBUTION

Warners
The Maltings
Manor Lane
Bourne
Lincolnshire
PE10 9PH

Powerplay is the sole copyright and sole property of Mark Hoaksey. All rights are reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited.

Where the metal is always hot!

EDITORIAL

What a crazy busy month it's been. I've spent so much time in my office that my friends think I've gone into hibernation, but it has been worth it, as this issue is packed with top name acts and a whole host of fantastic new bands. Any one of half a dozen of them could have appeared on the front cover, and most of those already have been at some point in the past. That said, it was almost inevitable that Skid Row would take the headline, their recruitment of former H.E.A.T singer Erik Grönwall having been the biggest recent news in the rock world, and the anticipation for the release of the album with Erik at the microphone has been rabid, especially after the title track single went live on YouTube. Everybody who reads Powerplay will be aware of what an incredible singer Erik is but his spiky wailing with Skid Row is a far cry from the smooth as silk croon that he is known for, and I have to say that across the whole album he has totally nailed the spirit of what makes a song sound uniquely Skid Row.

Great as the new Skid Row album is, there was only ever going to be one winner of our best album this month; the new Stratovarius disc is the perfect example of a band taking their own distinctive sound and ramping up the melody to such insane levels that the first time you hear it, it leaves you trying to grin and drop your jaw at the same time, and that's never a good look. If you haven't done so already, head to YouTube and check out the videos for the instantly memorable and superbly catchy 'World On Fire' and 'Firefly'. You'll show more restraint than I did if you manage to pull yourself away before hitting rewind three or four times for each.

Power metal fans also have a treat this month in the shape of the new Blind Guardian album, which front man Hansi Kürsch reckons is the start of a whole new era for the band. Then there's the new Machine Head album, one that our very own Smudge is calling their best ever. Add to those the fantastic latest releases hitting the shelves just before or just after this magazine from the likes of Goo Goo Dolls, Five Finger Death Punch, and Amon Amarth, and I think it's fair to say that wherever your personal taste sits in the rock and metal spectrum there is some shiny new music out there with your name on it.

And of course in addition to those world-leading acts we are here to help you discover some treasured new bands from the wealth of talent bubbling to the surface from the underground, and we have some total crackers in this issue. Do take time to check them out.

That's me done for another month. Time for a stiff drink, a comfy sofa, and a favourite movie to fall asleep to. See you here next time when this poor editor will have to decide between The Dead Daisies and Queensryche for the front cover.



Mark

Subscribe now and save yourself the regular trip to the newsagent!

That's right, save yourself the hassle, never miss an issue that sells out, receive your magazines a few days before they go on sale in the shops and bag yourself a free copy into the bargain. You know it makes sense.

You can take out or extend a subscription for one year/11 issues by:

1. Calling with your card details on 0161 3391035
2. Paying with Paypal at our online shop at www.powerplaymagazine.co.uk
3. Sending a cheque for £60 made out to Powerplay (plus your name and address) to:

Powerplay Magazine
62 Rose Hill Road
Ashton-under-Lyne
OL6 8HR

Artist: Dylan Connor
Album Title: Infinity Days
Label: Self Released
Genre: Indie Rock, Power Pop, Singer/Songwriter



Description:
'Infinity Days' is a modern indie rock album that reflects the isolation, intimacy, and introspection of the Covid era. Connor played all of the instruments except for the drums and some of the synths. The ten track offering has full band rockers, piano driven stompers, and stripped down ballads.

Influences for the album:
'Infinity Days' has a soundscape reminiscent of R.E.M, Neil Young, and the Shins. It is as direct as a Tom Petty record and as haunting as Jeff Buckley record. You can also hear hints of Ben Folds and CSNY.

Line-Up:
Dylan Connor all instruments and vocals except drums and some keyboards by Coley O'Toole.

CD Track Listing:
1. Everything
2. Spring of '21
3. Pixie
4. Unsung Heroes
5. Group Self Portrait

6. 21st Century Dingaling
7. Back to Life
8. Bitterness
9. Inside Job
10. Inner Space.

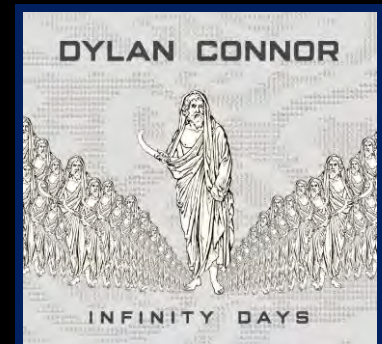
Discography:
Plug In (2004)
Breakdowns and Hymns EP (2006)
Breakaway Republic (2008)
Primitive Times (2011)
Blood Like Fire EP (2014)
Spirit Glue (2016)
Infinity Days (2021)

Hailing from Stratford, Connecticut, USA, we find Indie Rock, Power Pop influenced, Singer/Songwriter **DYLAN CONNOR** and he has an excellent recent ten track album out now called 'Infinity Days' which clocks in at just over forty minutes long and is the artist's seventh release.

It is 6:50 pm and Dylan Connor is sitting at his kitchen table in Stratford, CT. It has been a hot summer day with family and extended family swirling around the house, speaking a mix of English, Arabic, and German. Connor's wife is Syrian and her sister is visiting from Germany with her husband and four year old son. It's the first time they've seen each other since the pandemic hit. Dylan has had a few coffees throughout the day. For lunch he had a righteous batch of fish and chips at Captain's Cove on Bridgeport harbor. He just put down the guitar after learning a couple of Phoebe Bridgers songs for a gig tomorrow night at Las Vetas Lounge in Fairfield, CT where he has a summer residency. Dylan's songs map the interior of the human experience, and his lyrics are informed by his exploration of ancient history and a degree in Classics and in English Literature, but they are raw, emotional, and immediate. Another thing that makes this artist different from other indie rockers is that he is a public high school Latin

teacher, and he is also deeply involved as an advocate for a free and democratic Syria. "I am on the National Board for the Syrian American Council, and I have run several missions to the border of Syria to deliver humanitarian aid," he expresses.

Growing up, Dylan watched 'This is Elvis' on his VCR and he was obsessed. "I watched it everyday and tried to make my hair look like his, very unsuccessfully," he chuckles. "The next year, I watched 'The Complete Beatles' and shed some tears of inspiration. It was a religious experience." His mom brought him to Child World and bought him a plastic Dukes of Hazzard guitar, and he started writing songs immediately. "I didn't know how to play a lick, and the guitar was not really playable, but it was a start. As luck would have it, my neighbours were in the record business and were all musicians. It was a playground over there: musical instruments, recording equipment, and legendary rock stars were all accessible," he enthuses.



With them, the youngster learned to play on real instruments, record on four-track, and got to meet Ozzy, Peter Frampton, Ginger Baker, Stevie Ray Vaughn, etc. "By the time I was thirteen, I had recorded a professional demo, and by the time I was sixteen I was playing in bars and clubs. That was the beginning," he smiles.

His biggest musical inspirations are Bob Dylan, Van Halen, Neil Young, Guided By Voices, Prince, Morrissey, The Spinners, The Who, Nada Surf, The Lemonheads, and the Beatles. The inspiration for 'Infinity Days' came from turning away from the noisy scary world and going inward to map how his own self being exists in it all. "I have a tattoo on my right forearm that says Nosce Te Ipsum, which is Latin for know thyself. I believe that to know myself is to know everyone - what it is to be human. That is the inspiration for this album. For example, the song 'Everything' looks at the paradoxical nature of human institutions. In particular, it was inspired by thinking back to the massive protests against the Iraq War in San Francisco that I attended. In what ways are protests valuable, and in what way are they futile? 'The Spring of '21' is a post apocalyptic love story. 'Group Self Portrait' is an ode to our collective resilience in the pandemic. 'Back to Life' was inspired by a personal experience of losing a student in a tragic car accident," he explains. When he is not writing or performing Dylan is an avid advocate for human rights, and he is active with Amnesty International, and he has participated in several events for them. "I am also the Chair of Missions and am on the Executive Committee of the Syrian American Council - the largest grassroots advocacy group for a free and democratic Syria. I have run several missions to the border of Syria since 2011 to bring aid and solidarity to the Syrians suffering in this crisis that has claimed the lives of up to half a million Syrians and displaced half of Syria's twenty million inhabitants. I enjoy taekwondo, which I have been practicing for six years. By day, I am a Latin teacher at the local public

high school. I also love to read about and investigate both the UFO phenomenon and the JFK assassination. I am a big movie fan too. Some of my favorite movies are 'This is Spinal Tap' and the Christopher Guest ensemble films like 'Waiting for Guffman,' 'Best in Show,' and 'Mighty Wind.' I am also a big fan of Robert Downey Sr. films like 'Greaser's Palace' and 'Putney Swope.'," he tells me.



Due to the pandemic, he played all of the instruments on the record except for drums. "The biggest challenge, and yet the most fun thing in regards to that experience was writing and executing the bass lines. I have a whole new respect for bass players after this experience. The album is darker in tone and more streamlined than any of my previous albums. It has a more modern sound. The more records I make, the more I am learning to strip away fat from the songs and get to the point more directly," he expresses. First and foremost, 'Infinity Days' is his first album to have a debut single hit commercial radio, which happened with the single 'Everything' last summer. "This is my first album to garner multiple license and sync contracts (PBS, Discovery, MTV). This album is also the first one not produced by Bryce Goggin. So, I jumped out of my comfort zone in that sense. Bryce has produced and mixed legendary albums that I worship such as 'Crooked Rain Crooked Rain' by

Pavement and 'Let Go' by Nada Surf," he points out. 'Infinity Days' was recorded in Oxford CT at the studio of Coley O'Toole. "Coley is the keys and rhythm guitar player in platinum selling pop rock band We the Kings. He also wrote the Boyz 2 Men single 'Diamond Eyes.' The recording process took about a year from the fall of 2020 to the summer of 2021," he adds/ The guys worked on weekends, just the two of them due to the pandemic. "We were often in masks or forced to cancel a session due to a close contact. I loved the vibe in the studio, and looking out to the autumn and winter New England countryside during tracking." His highlight of the album for is the song 'Spring of '21' because it has an atmosphere to it and a story that is always enjoyable for him to sing. "It is the only song on the album that feels like a novela. Also, the song has a Neil Young Crazy Horse vibe to it that I love and a guitar solo that I enjoyed composing and playing. There are some really nice vocal harmonies in the song and a very simple but dramatic piano line," he enthuses. The live shows in 2022 have been great, as Dylan is playing all over the North East of the United States to energetic and appreciative crowds. "I play solo while on the road and with a band when I am playing locally. I did two great album release shows that were packed houses in New York City's Rockwood Music Hall and at Bridgeport CT's Bijou theater. I am aiming to grow my fan base in concentric circles - to maintain my presence in NY, MA, and CT and to expand to markets in NJ and PA. It was originally scheduled for 1/7, but that just happened to be the peak of this latest surge. So, now we have to get a new date and make sure that the whole band can do it. I

have a six piece band. It looks like 2/25 will be the new date."

For the future, he is excited to see how the license and sync contracts play out in the coming months. "I will be making a music video for the single 'Group Self Portrait' to follow the lyric video that I put out a couple of months ago.



I want to produce an animated video for the song that shows the border lines of the countries on earth being erased from the map. Also, I want to continue to write songs for films, as I already have two songs in films and have forged good relationships with their directors.," concludes Dylan, bringing an end to our conversation.

'Infinity Days' is out on CD and available on all streaming platforms, and he also hopes to put out a vinyl release of the album as well in 2022.

Check Dylan out at:

www.dylanconnor.com

www.facebook.com/DylanConnorMusic

<https://twitter.com/dylanconnor>

<https://instagram.com/dylanconnor>

<https://soundcloud.com/dylanconnormusic>

<https://dylanconnor.bandcamp.com/>