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Biography (short version)

Patrice Vigier Guitarist, Guitar Maker

Patrice Vigier has been a worldwide, reputable, non-industrial guitar maker since 1980. His great reputation has manifested due to his innovative instruments, such as the fretless guitars with metal fingerboards, or the first memory guitar. Vigier's instruments are played by a myriad of bands including: Deep Purple, Black Sabbath, Led Zeppelin, Simple Minds, Guns and Roses, Oingo Boingo, Stanley Jordan, Lapiro de Mbanga, and Shawn Lane.

Patrice Vigier is also the owner of a musical instrument distribution company in Europe. This company distributes to prestigious brands such as Orange Amplifiers, Ernie Ball Strings, Music Man Guitars, and Schecter Guitars.

Patrice Vigier learned music theory at a very early age, and is presently involved in a music project called Vigier's Summer Storm. The first CD involves the renowned French musicians: Pascal Mulot on bass, Aurelien Ouzoulias on drums, and the star singer, Renaud Hantson. Along with his own musical career, Renaud Hantson has starred in French rock operas such as Starmania, La Legende de Jimmy, and Notre Dame de Paris.

Summer Storm claims to be of the progressive classic rock genre. The ambition of the project is to internationally establish the first classic rock French band.

The first CD has already been produced, composed, and arranged by Patrice Vigier, with all lyrics and melodies created by Renaud Hantson. The CD is ready to be released, and the second CD will be released in 2019.



Biography

Patrice Vigier Guitarist, Guitar Maker

What are Vigier guitars? Maker of Vigier guitars, Patrice Vigier, assumes that his guitars are not for the masses. Created in the 1980s, their production is limited. This is because of the high price associated with a craftsmanship next to perfection. These are high performance instruments for outstanding musicians. They are innovative and their technical solutions are chosen for the best of music. This is why, even if France is not a nation reputed for rock music, Vigier has enlisted many famous bands that joined the brand, from **Simple Minds** or Propaganda in the 80s, to **Black Sabbath** or Led Zeppelin in the 90s, to **Guns and Roses** or **Deep Purple** in the new century. Additionally, Patrice Vigier's guitars fit different styles of music for individuals such as the "Master of Jazz," **Stanley Jordan** or Master Shawn Lane who played Vigier from the day he had one until he passed away, or Lapiro de Mbanga, an African jumbo star in Cameroon.

Early Life and Career:

Patrice Vigier was born in 1958. Due to his active personality and nonconformist nature, he was expelled from school when he was eighteen. Fifteen years later his sister became a teacher in that school and nearly became headmaster. Vigier decided at that time that he would follow the path of a musician by learning classical music and music theory. At age twenty, with no money or resources, he started his first company. Vigier is a self-made man. On his own he learned to make electric guitars, run a company, market and create artist relations, use CAD/CAM, install and run a server, and write computer programs.

The Vigier family was highly skillful, but not necessarily culturally orientated. The only modern disk they had while Patrice was growing up was The Tornado's "Telstar." At the age twelve, after listening to John Lennon's "Instant Karma" and Deep Purple's "Black Night," music entered his soul. A few years later his sister put a guitar in Patrice's hands and his life changed forever. The Vigier family was always very humble, and Patrice, despite his success, never forgot the people who trusted and helped him along the way.

Patrice was extremely advanced when it came to building and designing guitars. His concepts and designs remain modern and exclusive to Vigier today. Due to this unique style, the **Vigier company became successful almost immediately**. This success kept Patrice moving forward, so that one day he could return to making music professionally.



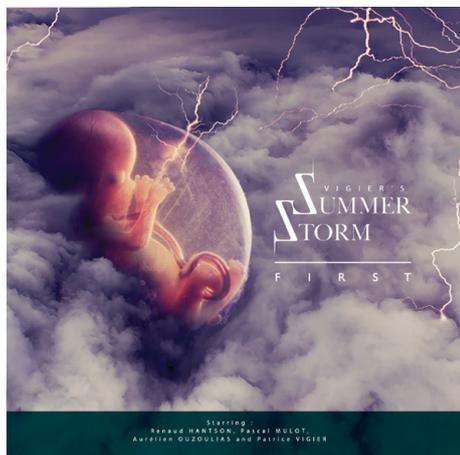
The company has been successful for nearly thirty-eight years, despite the occasional setback or problems backstage. Vigier is no stranger to hard times and has experienced betrayal from friends, trouble with collectors knocking on his door, fires in the factory, and theft. One day one forty instruments were finished, hanging, and ready to go, except for one missing screw. That day the security system broke down and thieves broke in. They took all of the instruments except one: Geezer Butler's bass (Black Sabbath's bass player) which had been hidden from their view. This bass was special because of Butler's logo. If it had been stolen it would have taken several months to remake it. Luckily, his bass was finished and he played on it with Black Sabbath for a decade. Amazingly, the other instruments were found and the thieves were sent to jail.

In short, Vigier's company was shining on the outside, but experiencing hard times on the inside. This is why he remained humble, even during times of public notoriety, including television appearances on talk shows or **prime time news networks**.

Another stroke of luck occurred when Steve Lukather from Toto called the company. He wanted to meet Patrice at a concert in Paris. Toto was a giant at the time and gave credit to Vigier Guitars on the *Isolation* album.

Even if Patrice was not "hunting" for musicians, he was lucky enough to meet some of the greatest living artists on Earth. Vigier soon began to realize that you can make the best guitars in the world, but if no musicians play them, they do not exist.

In his guitar making career, **Vigier was probably too creative**. On the one hand, his craft made French guitars known worldwide, but on the other hand, it made some musicians afraid of their novelty. What is certain is that he had fun creating and becoming a skilled artist, so that he could contribute to making music sound amazing.



The Summer Storm Project

Vigier is aware that he has less to say about being a musician than being a guitar maker, and that credibility still needs to be made. Challenges are nothing new for Patrice. He was challenged when he started making guitars, when he started his distribution company, and when he opened foreign branches. Patrice Vigier is highly determined and is extremely driven until he reaches his goals. His current goal is to establish a **French progressive classic rock** band.

To release good music, a talented singer is needed. The *Vigier's Summer Storm Project* was introduced to Renaud Hantson, a man of many talents including: singer, writer, arranger, producer, and showman. Hantson had a successful and popular career as the main singer of the French Rock opera *Notre Dame de Paris*, *La Légende De Jimmy*, and *Starmania*. He was also the lead singer of one of the most respected metal bands, Satan Jokers.

Michel Berger once referred to Hantson by saying, “**He is the best singer of his generation!**” Because of his openness and comfortability in different musical worlds, Renaud Hantson was exactly the singer Patrice Vigier was looking for. Hantson had the talent to write melodies while simultaneously inserting the energy and spontaneity of rock.

Renaud Hantson is a busy singer but was excited to join Vigier’s project. In Hantson’s career he sang with musicians that played Vigier, one of whom was the bass player and co-founder of Satan Jokers, Laurent Bernat, who passed away in 2004 from an overdose. The motivation to work with the maker of Laurent Bernat's bass was likely due to a spiritual remembrance of Bernat, and a message to stay away from drugs. The *Summer Storm Project* is held together by strong and renowned musicians including Pascal Mulot (on bass) and Aurelien Ouzoulias (on drums). Both celebrated stars in France, the two musicians are considered the “la crème de la crème” of their respective disciplines.

The CD: F1rst!

The first CD, called F1rst! is finished. The second one is being composed, and the third one will hopefully be a live DVD/CD in prestigious venues throughout Paris. Overall the entirety of the project is projected to take about four years. This will depend on the desire of the musicians participating in F1rst! and the possibility of contributions from new artists for the second album.

Musically, F1rst is a compilation of different ideas and feelings that moves from fundamental classical rock (“Little by Little,” and “Whoever You Are”) to spiritual feelings (“G.V.,” and “Life is Too Short”). Patrice Vigier describes these spiritual feeling as a transparent string between the real world and death. This CD was recorded over a period of three years. The guitars are paradoxically complex in simplicity! Patrice Vigier believes that what counts most is not a physical or Olympic, technical demonstration of sound, but the reaching of musical harmony. He also believes that the singer is the masterpiece of each song, and that the instruments are there to enhance his voice and lyrics.



The Songs:

Introduction

“Introduction” is meant to demonstrate Patrice Vigier’s personality, and as a kind of provocation. “Introduction” is primarily composed of a fast playing guitar, where the rest of the CD is not. This is one of three instrumental pieces on the CD. It is short, percussive, and very classically oriented.

Summer Storm

Patrice Vigier composed this song with the movements of a summer storm in mind, especially with the quality of unpredictability. It is a long song filled with complexity, but musical harmony guides the mood. Renaud Hantson’s lyrics are lighter, which gives the piece a softness and grace. Hantson’s melodies are extremely efficient and his performance as singer is exceptional.

Summer Storm exists in a shorter version (for promotional purpose) but the normal version is Patrice Vigier's album favorite.

Whoever You Are

This is classic rock song in which Renaud Hantson sings about what he experienced as a rock star. He touches on the feeling of success, and suddenly being surrounded by people that did not necessarily do what was best for him.

Little by Little

Another classic rock song that is fast, light, and easy to listen to. Renaud Hantson pulls us toward the infinite in this excellent song!

Natural Born Lover

Patrice Vigier proposed to Renaud Hantson that they do a song in French/English. The music is inspired by Mozart and is quite different from classic rock. Hantson embraced this piece with lyrics that are very “French Lover.”

Free Days

This is the second instrumental track on the CD. Patrice Vigier’s style of life has not left him much time to rest, and so “Free Days,” is an emanation of a day without obligations. It differs from other songs on the CD and is a favorite of Pasacl Mulot who performs a beautiful bass introduction.



G.V.

“G.V.” stands for Georges Vigier, Patrice Vigier’s father. Patrice Vigier also made a guitar named G.V. which was chosen by the Vigier community. Georges Vigier was raised an orphan, and was a self-made man that always supported his son. This song is Patrice Vigier's anthem to his father. It is filled with devotion and sadness, but also celebration of G.V.’s memory. Renaud Hantson transcribes Vigier's feelings gorgeously, and modestly. The end result is outstanding.

Life is Too Short

You live, and you live, and you live. Then suddenly, you are at the limit of life and the surprise of death. You exist, and then just as suddenly, you do not. This is what this song is about. Renaud Hantson, through his tremendous vocals, reminds us of deep truths we all forget sometimes. Aurelien Ouzoulias’ drum set is striking and soars with the song’s dramatic peak.

Extroduction

The last instrumental of the album is a piece of easy listening music wherein Vigier shows his ability as a guitarist. The title’s made up word represents the conclusion of the CD that includes a very heartfelt goodbye.



Quick Facts

Patrice Vigier Quick Facts

Prior To 1978 Learning of Classical Guitar and Music Harmony

1978 Guitar Repair

1980 Launch Vigier Guitars

1986 Launch of High Tech Distribution France (Exclusive Wholesales Distribution of Musical Instruments)

2007 Launch of High Tech Distribution Uk

2008 Launch of Vigier Usa

2014 Summer Storm CD Project

2016 Launch of High Tech Distribution Benelux

2017 Launch of High Tech Distribution Germany

2018 Release of Vigier's Summer Storm F1rst

Skills

Making and Designing Guitars

Guitarist, Composer, and Arranger

Company Manager

Computer: MAO (Cubase), CAO (Solidworks), CNC (MasterCAM), Debian Server (Server Administration, E-mail, Website, etc...), Foxpro Software Development, Photoshop, Quark Xpress, and many others.

Guitar Innovations

Pioneer of Carbon Fiber

First Memory Guitar

First MIDI Controlled Guitar

First Tremolo Mounted on Ball Bearing

First Fretless Guitar with a Metal Fingerboard

Plus Many Other Details That Makes These Instruments Outstanding

Philosophy of Building Guitars

We Take Our Time to Make Them Right So We Can Stay at The Forefront of Guitar Technology.

Vigier Current Artists (Partial List)

Cuthrie Govan

Jean Beauvoir - Crown of Thorns

John Avila - Oingo Boingo

John Paul Jones - Led Zeppelin

Kevin Antreassian - Dillinger Escape Plan

Lapiro de M'banda

Masayoshi Yamashita - Loudness

Olaf Lenk - At Vance

Patrice Guers - Rhapsody

Prescott Niles - The Knack

Roger Glover - Deep Purple

Ron "Bumblefoot" Thal - Guns and Roses / Sons of Apollo

Ron Laster - James Brown

Seth - Septicflesh

Shawn Lane

Stanley Jordan

Tina S.

Tony Sales - Tin Machine

Music Business Web site:

www.vigierusa.com

www.vigierguitars.com

www.vigier.fr

www.facebook.com/VigierGuitars

www.facebook.com/vigierfrance

www.facebook.com/vigierofficial

www.htd.fr

www.htd-uk.com

www.orangeamps.fr

www.schecter.fr

Music Web site (not active yet):

www.summer-storm.rocks

www.facebook.com/summer.storm.rocks