

BLACK PAISLEY

Executive summary

Formed by frontman and songwriter Stefan Blomqvist in 2014 - BLACK PAISLEY is a Classic Rock act from Stockholm, Sweden.

Having reached almost 10 million streams on Spotify and YouTube etc, albeit being an independent act, the band has established themselves as one of the upcomers in melodic Classic Rock.

The band debuted in 2017 with the album *Late Bloomer* which received great reviews globally. It was followed up by full length album *Perennials* in 2018, and 4 stand-alone singles in 2019-20. In 2020 the 3rd album *Rambler* was released incl the new current line-up.

In November 2022 the 4th album *Human Nature* was released.

Lineup anno 2024

Stefan Blomqvist

- Lead Vocals & Guitar

Franco Santunione

- Lead Guitar & Backing Vocals

Jan Emanuelsson

- Bass

Magnus Ulfstedt

- Drums & Percussion



BLACK PAISLEY



Full Biography

Pt1. From cover to cover

The band was initially a spinoff from *StephMetal* - a Swedish cover band that had existed for many years featuring Stefan Blomqvist (vocals, guitar), Jan Emanuelsson (bass), Robert Karasz (drums), Birger Lundgren (guitar) and Robert Wirensjö (keyboards).

Stephmetal won the Swedish "Company of rock" in 2009 and gigged frequently both in Sweden and abroad (UK, Fr, Ne and No) during the 2000's.

The dream of making an album with their own material had often been discussed during the time of *Stephmetal*. Blomqvist had for years written material partially tested both live and in the rehearsal room, and subsequently felt that now was the time to make this dream of an album become reality. With Wirensjö's connections in the music industry a new story began..

The recording project was named **BLACK PAISLEY**, after Bon Jovi's Ritchie Sambora's classic Fender signature guitar from 1987.

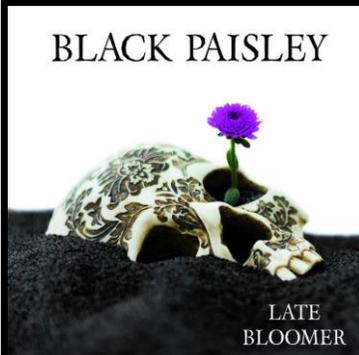
In autumn of 2014 the recordings started outside Sundsvall with producer *Johan Dereborn* (former Takida, Gaston, E-type), where the band recorded the backgrounds live and also mixed the songs "Autumn" and "Kickin" during a couple cold November weekends. During the Sundsvall sessions guitarist Ulf Hedin came onboard – likewise an experienced musician and songwriter. Ulf was to become a central musical engine in the **BLACK PAISLEY** project onwards. The friendly and talented drummer *Mikael Kerslow*, also guested in an honorable way in Sundsvall and was later to become a full member on the second album.

In spring of 2015 the band continued recording "It ain't over" and "This Is My Day" in Stockholm, at Mikael Wikman's fine drum studio (used by *Rammstein* and others).

In autumn of the same year, they decided to put more efforts into the project and came in contact with Mats "Limpan" Lindfors (*John Norum, Talisman, Meshuggah*) who now took over the lead of the project, both recording, mixing and production together with Robert Wirensjö. The rest of the songs were recorded at the prestigious Sound Trade Studios in Solna, where bands like *Abba, Europe, and Michael Bolton* recorded. Final mastering was done at Cutting Room Stockholm, again by Mats Lindfors.

Album Discography

LATE BLOOMER - 2017



The debut **Late Bloomer** was a musical combination of Classic Rock, AOR and Modern Country. The album consists of nine songs with a spread from heavy rockers as “Run Run Run” and “Ordinary Day”, via more melodic radio tunes like “Way To Something” and “Coming Home” but also touches the southern rock influences with “It Ain’t Over” and “Easy”.

The album was released in 2017 and was build up with a new single release each Friday in 9 weeks before the album release. As of October 2020, the first single “Run Run Run” has been streamed 1,3 million times on Spotify.

The story behind the name of the album is a quibble on the late debut of the band and the nickname of singer Blomqvist (Bloomer).

Lineup on Late Bloomer

Stefan Blomqvist – Lead Vocals & Guitar

Jan Emanuelsson – Bass

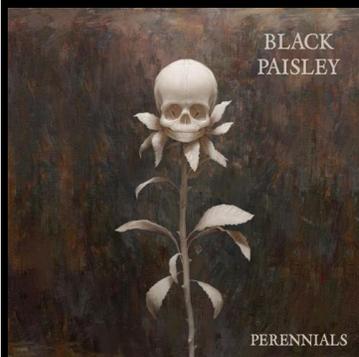
Ulf Hedin - Lead Guitar & Backing Vocals

Robban Wirensjö – Keyboard & Backing Vocals

Robert Karaszi – Drums & Percussion

Pt2. In bloom

PERENNIALS - 2018



Peppered by the success of the debut, the band started the work on the second album Perennials directly. Blomqvist had more songs ready and the band also co-wrote some new song for the album.

Again the creation of the album went through stages with different contributors.

The first 4 songs were recorded at Soundtrade again, this time with engineer Anders Pantzer and later mixed by legendary producer and Grammy winner Nicklas Flyckt (Britney Spears, Robyn). The single Step Back was picked by Spotify’s editors on the Rock Hard playlist.

Later the project moved into Ulf Hedin’s homestudio and with the help of Pelle Andersson (ex Roxette) who had produced Johnossi’s first album the rest of the songs were recorded and mixed. Andersson was later also going to start the side pop-project “Kurbitz” with Blomqvist.

The final mastering was made by Finnish friend Svante Forsbäck (Rammstein, Volbeat) who had worked with Flyckt before.

The artwork “Seed” is painted by British artist Tom Bagshaw, and shows the growing babyskull introduced on the debut cover.

The release gig of Perennials was at legendary Kägelbanan in Stocholm with Alien as special guests.

In the fall of 2019 and spring of 2020 four songs (Dreams, All The Way To Heaven, Woman I Know and Need Some Soul) were recorded, and mixed by Ulf Hedin and released meaning to be the start of the third album, working title “Shamrock”.

But line-up changes came in between, and the band reformed in the summer of 2020.

Lineup on Perennials

Stefan Blomqvist – Lead Vocals & Guitar

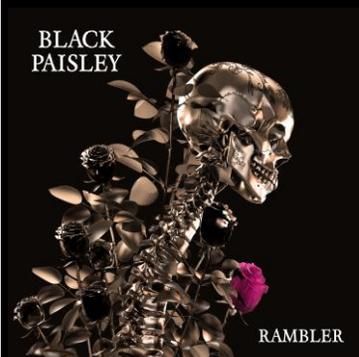
Jan Emanuelsson – Bass

Ulf Hedin - Lead Guitar & Backing Vocals

Robban Wirensjö – Keyboard & Backing Vocals

Mikael Kerslow – Drums & Percussion

RAMBLER – 2020



Pt3. The Ramblers

In the beginning of 2020 Black Paisley's manager Eric Sandström introduced his friend Franco Santunione to Blomqvist for another side-project and a new constellation including Blomqvist, Emanuelsson and founding drummer Robert Karaszi started to rehearse and write new material.

In the summer of 2020 this emerged into the new Black Paisley line-up as Franco decided to leave Electric Boys and go full-time with Black Paisley.

The former Paisley members (Hedin, Wirensjö and Kerslow) went off to create a new rock-project called Whale Dog.

At this point the band made a decision to steer in on a little different direction musically, introducing a riffier sound and more uptempo songs, without abandoning the catchy melodies that have become one of Black Paisley's hallmarks.

The reformed Paisley rehearsed and recorded all summer at Franco's old friend Martin Karlegård studio (from 90's band Reptile Smile).

Karlegård also played a part in the songmaking and vocal arrangements as well as doing all backing vocals along with Franco.

The new album consists of 8 brand new tracks, this time back to the basic rock setup with 2 guitars and no keyboards.

The artwork "The Rambler" is made by digital artist Tanbeed Amin and visualizes a growing spine in copper surrounded by ramling roses, describing the band evolution.

Lineup on Rambler

Stefan Blomqvist – Lead Vocals & Guitar

Franco Santunione – Lead Guitar & Backing Vocals

Jan Emanuelsson – Bass

Robert Karaszi – Drums & Percussion



The summer of 2022 was a stepping stone for Paisley as a live act. The band both went on tour to support Electric Boys in the winter and ended up playing some of the larger festivals in Sweden in the summer (Skogsröjet, Bandit Rock and Malmöfestivalen) which again grew the interest for the band.



Pt4. Creatures of Nature

The success of Rambler had pushed the band more into the Classic Rock genre with their new blues infused music. By doing so the band reached a whole new audience too. Paisley wanted to continue on this route but widen the variety of songs for the next album. With the same song writing structure Blomqvist and Santunione started to craft the new songs for the 4th album – “Human Nature”.



Alongside the songwriting, manager Eric Sandström was looking for the production team to take the band to the next level. Reaching out to Mike Fraser in Canada turned out to be the start of a magical partnership. Fraser having been a part of the legendary Little Mountain movement (Bon Jovi, Aerosmith, The Cult) in the 80's and 90's now was the household mixer for AC/DC the last 33 years among others of course. Fraser invited Paisley to join them in Vancouver to mix and help out on some of the new tracks.

“I recently had the pleasure of meeting and working with the guys in Black Paisley. Great music and great people!” – Mike Fraser

On most tracks Robert Pehrsson was the contracted mixer as on Rambler.

The recording was again done at Martin Karlegårds studio in Stockholm together with all vocal tracking. The mastering was partly made by Ryan Smith at Sterling in Nashville and partly by Claes Persson at CRP in Stockholm.

The artwork story took yet another level with the fantastic sculpture by French artist Emeric Chantier, retouched by Unni Wagner. The 4th re-incarnation of Paisley's by now classic skull.

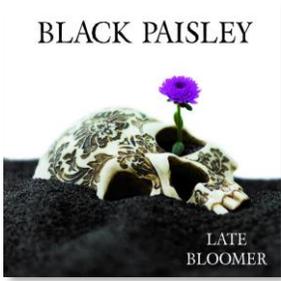
The band also introduced the new yellow logo with the Saint of Stockholm “S:t Erik” in the shape of the Paisley sugar skull.

This album was also to be distributed by Sound Pollution to access all record buyers worldwide.

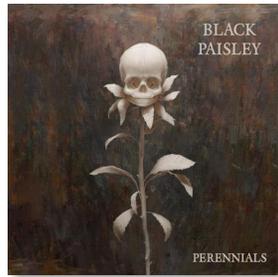


Full Discography

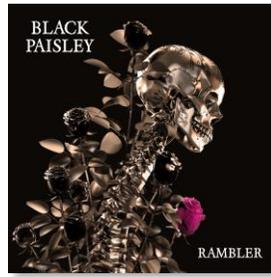
Albums



Late Bloomer – 2017



Perennials – 2018

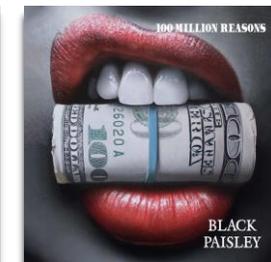
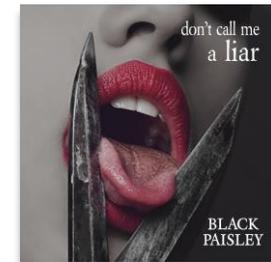
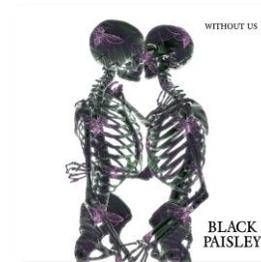
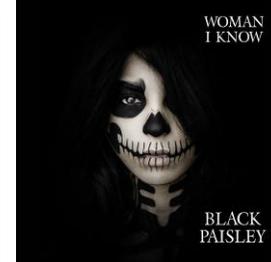
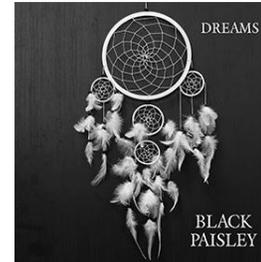
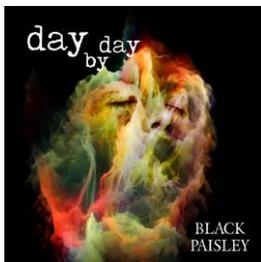
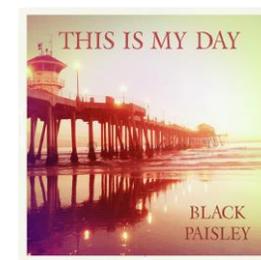
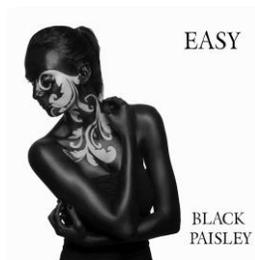
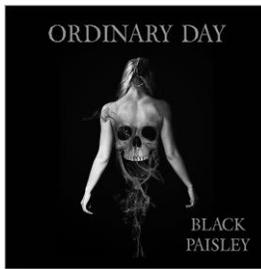
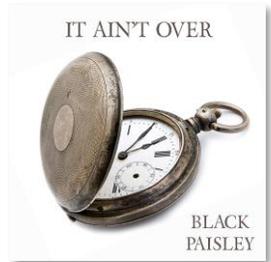
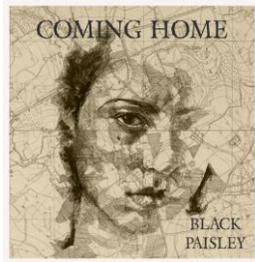


Rambler – 2020

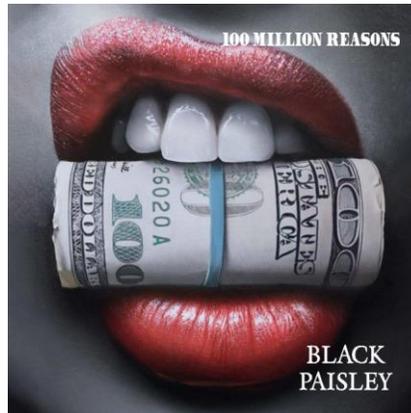


Human Nature - 2022

Singles



2023 was another busy year. It kicked off with some more positive reviews for our late 2022 release, "Human Nature" which now was released in Japan too.



In June, the band also dropped a bonus track titled "100 Million Reasons," which received a great response.

In April, we made our international debut at the Easter Festival in Hamburg, on a very nice and well-organized event.

Spring kept up its pace with the Record Store Day event, where our album was featured on the TV4 morning show alongside Ronny Svensson. Later that night, we had a gig up north in Avesta.

In May, our crew headed to London to celebrate our manager Eric's 50th birthday (again) and scoped out some potential future venues.

Our summer events were highlighted by the well-attended Växjö gig during the city festival.

October brought a double bill mini-tour with our friends in Metalite, hitting both Örebro and Stockholm, where the gig will always be remembered for the fire alarm that disrupted the set three songs in, leading to the evacuation of the entire theater.

Pt5. Hallo Africa

In late 2023 - Robert Karaszi - founding member of Black Paisley decided to relocate to Cape Town, South Africa where he will be spending a bigger chunk of his year with friends and his new love.

When the band was looking and testing out new drummers the choice fell on local hero Magnus Ulfstedt. Magnus has a vast experience and a great background for Paisley both musically and culturally, having been part of many of Sweden's finest bands in the genre over the years, including Eclipse, Ammunition, and Nordic Union. He's also been touring with Royal Hunt, Talisman, Lion's Share, Jimi Jamison, Jeff Paris, Mitch Malloy and Torch to name a few.

"-I'm excited to join Black Paisley. Their straightforward rock music with great hooks fits me, and my drumming, just right at this point in my life" says Magnus.

Currently, the band is in rehearsals for the new anticipated 5th studio album. We're also gearing up for upcoming international gigs, including our debuts in Norway and Slovakia, supporting the mighty Scorpions among others.

