

Wishbone Ash®

JUST THE FACTS

For over 30 years, England's "Wishbone Ash" has been hailed by concert-goers and reviewers alike as one of the best bands ever to grace a stage. They may not have had that 15 minutes of fame "hit single" that other bands from the 70's enjoyed, but through constant touring and quality album releases, the band has built a very loyal worldwide following of die-hard fans. To some, the very mention of a Wishbone Ash tour causes them to put in for their vacation time in order to follow the band from city to city, much like fans of the Grateful Dead did a couple of years back.

- Band forms in 1969 and embraces harmony guitar style which sets them apart from the pack.
- Wishbone Ash sign on with fledgling manager Miles Copeland.
- In 1970, after jamming with Andy Powell at a sound check, Ritchie Blackmore from Deep Purple recommends Wishbone Ash to Purple's producer and a deal is struck with MCA records that continues for 11 years and 14 albums - millions of albums sold world wide.
- Guitarists, Powell & Turner gain peer recognition playing London sessions with amongst others Beatles; McCartney & Harrison with Ted Turner appearing on Lennon's classic, 'Imagine'.
- 1972 signals the release of the classic "Argus" album, hailed as the album of the year by the readers of England's Melody Maker and New Musical Express. Argus goes Gold & Platinum in the UK and launches the band as a major contender in the US.
- On Wishbone's first US tour they open for the Who and then, in turn, over the years the band headlined it's own stadium shows featuring such opening acts as; Aerosmith, Kiss, ZZ Top, Bruce Springsteen.
- Relocation in the USA, recording albums with legendary producers Bill Scymzyck and Tom Dowd.
- Band's impact in Europe is consolidated by the Star-Trucking Festival Tour which sees the band headlining a star-packed bill featuring, Bob Marley, Steve Stills, Mahavishnu Orchestra and Ike & Tina Turner.
- Sell-out tours of Japan, Australia & New Zealand.
- Rolling Stone Magazine labels the band's guitarists, Andy Powell & Ted Turner amongst the world's the top20 best at that time.
- Tours of Former Soviet Union & India!
- In 1995 the band's web site is launched uniting fans around the world and presently drawing over 10,000 unique visitors a month. An online newsletter is started, informing the band's community of their current activities. Utilizing the web, tours in the UK and Germany now becoming annual events with most venues being sold out long before the band actually play a date.
- The year 2000 sees a sold out 30th anniversary concert take place at the legendary Shepherds Bush Empire in London, England. The event videoed and digitally recorded and released both on DVD and VHS format.
- The obligatory unplugged album "Bare Bones" is released on Sanctuary Records.
- In 2002 MCA Records Re-releases a special (remixed & re-mastered) 30 anniversary edition of the classic Argus album. The album is an immediate MUST HAVE amongst the fans. It also becomes one of the fastest re-issues to completely sell out in MCA history causing the label to re-press to meet demand.
- 2002 saw the addition of top Finnish guitarist, Ben Granfelt (ex Leningrad Cowboys and Gringos Locos), together with the release of the band's long awaited "Bona Fide" studio album (key cuts: "Faith, Hope & Love" and "Almighty Blues")
- The band's discography includes: (* indicates Gold or Platinum award) Wishbone Ash, Pilgrimage, Argus*, Wishbone Four, Live Dates*, There's The Rub, Locked In, New England, Front Page News, No Smoke Without Fire, Live In Tokyo, Just Testing*, Number The Brave, Live Dates II, Twin Barrels Burning, Hot Ash, Raw To The Bone, Nouveau Calls, Here To Hear, Strange Affair, Live In Chicago, Live in Geneva, Illuminations, Trance Visionary, Psychic Terrorism, Outward Bound, Bare Bones, Live Dates III, and BonaFide.
- Great summer 2003 Classic Rock festival appearances including Sweden Rock, Holland's Arrow Rock, Milwaukee Fest and more, with collective audiences in excess of 100,000. Billed alongside Tull, Yes, Whitesnake and others.
- 2004 Muddy Manninen joins the band in place of retiring guitarist and fellow Finn, Ben Granfelt. As Ben's one time partner in 80's band, Gringos Locos, Muddy comes with Ben's recommendation and it is to prove a marriage made in heaven.
- A live performance is recorded and aired at XM Satellite Radio in D.C. It is later released as a live concert and hailed as a success, being only Muddy's 4th gig with the band.
- 2005 Clan Destiny CD recorded in Carlisle Massachusetts. Manninen shows his songwriting chops with pieces like The Raven. A strong tour schedule resulting some 175 tour dates worldwide.
- 2006 Wishbone works in Belgium's famous Spirit of 66 Club, producing a live DVD. Tours of the USA and Europe undertaken. Band's annual U.K. fan convention changes location to Chesterfield, England to great acclaim from fans who travel worldwide for the event.
- 2007 Release of Live in Hamburg DVD recorded in Hamburg, Germany's famous Fabrik club. Finding time in between an increasingly busy tour schedule Wishbone records the highly rated studio CD, The Power of Eternity. Long time drummer Ray Weston retires from the band, moving to California. This time recording takes place in Finland with new wunderkind, Joe Crabtree on drums fresh from stints with prog rockers, Pendragon and the David Cross band. Greece is visited during the summer for a festival along with Holland, Germany and the U.K.
- 2007 /2008 Wishbone Ash embarks on an ambitious year long tour schedule around the world dubbed the 'Eternity Tour' with over 100 dates in just the first 6 months.