

# Highlander

**CB:** *The working title of the new album is "Inneal Time" which is Gaelic for "time-machine". Why?*

**AM:** On the new album a motorbike is the means of travel through Scottish history and as the popular name for a motorbike is "machine" the title Time Machine picked itself. However Time Machine has been used as a song or album title so often. The first song called Time Machine that I remember was by Beggar's Opera (*on the album Waters of Change 1971. Their best of cd from 2001 is also called Time Machine*). I went through loads of other possibilities – "Time Jumper" and "Time Rider" were contenders but always came back to Time Machine because of the motorbike and as its a Scottish album it got a Scottish name.

**CB:** *The bike has a Highlander history does it not?*

**AM:** Yeah, on the album Harleyluja there was a song called "The Biker's Prayer". The song is about a biker who is dying after having an accident and who asks his friends not to sell his bike after he is gone. The new album is a continuation of the story. It turns out that the biker has a son who now inherits the bike. The father had had the bike nearly his whole life and had worked on it, rebuilt it and cared for it. You could say it was his whole life and now in death his soul has entered the machine. The son, who is basically a young kid who has done nothing with his life up to now, inherits the bike but sees it just as a status symbol with which he can ponce around on and show off. His father's soul within the bike doesn't think much of this and decides it's time to show his son where he comes from – his family, ancestors and history. At one point the son is driving around showing off on the bike and when he reaches a certain rev count he disappears into the past. That was his first jump in time.

**CB:** *OK. So presumably each song on the album is about a different period of Scottish history*

**AM:** Each song tells the story of where the kid appears in time and what he experiences. Sometimes he lands in the middle of a battle, sometimes he's way back in the Pictish times, sometimes in the eighteenth, nineteenth or twentieth century. It's all about the people he meets and the situations he finds himself in as he is jumping around time. He has absolutely no control over the where and the when of the jumps.

On the first jump he meets a young woman and falls in love and is really happy to be where he is. He doesn't realize what his father has in store for him and the next time he gets on his bike again and reaches the rev count he jumps in time again. So the rest of the album is about him trying to get back to his girlfriend not to his own time.

**CB:** *So in a way you could say that the album is about two of the most important questions in a person's life - "where do I come from?" and "will I find true love?"*

**AM:** The album is also about materialism, idealism and love. When the young man meets the girl he realizes that having this amazing bike to show off on isn't the main thing in life. He just wants to get back to her and he now realizes that when he reaches the particular rev count then he will jump in time but unfortunately for him he doesn't know where or when he'll end up.



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**CB:** *The father is still controlling that? Presumably he won't allow his son to get to his girlfriend until he's finished showing him everything he wants him to see?*

**AM:** Not just that. The father also wants to teach him something about life at the same time.

**CB:** *Does the son find his true love again?*

**AM:** Actually he does. At some point he ends up back in his own time and figures that if he hits the rev count at the right time while driving down the same road he was on when he made his first jump then there is a good chance he will get back to his lassie. So he is reunited with her and stays there instead of trying to bring her to his own time.

**CB:** *Tell us what the listener can expect musically from this album?*

**AM:** Well obviously it's a rock album. It is sometimes mystical and sometimes straight rock. The songs are long...

**CB:** *Sounds a bit like Prog-Rock!*

**AM:** Yes, the album definitely has its roots in the progressive rock of the 1970s which fits with the concept of jumping in time. It's also definitely Scottish but there are no ballads! Some songs are faster than others - but no ballads. Some songs touch the down to earth Scottish folk music and use bagpipes, fiddle and harp but they always return to heavy rock - heavy drums and bass and loads and loads of guitar.

**CB:** *And presumably as a five piece you now have lots of keyboards?*

**AM:** On every track. It would be hard to get the mystical element across without the help of keyboards in the background but they don't play a major part at all on any of the songs. They are only used to create an atmosphere. The guitar is the main instrument although, as one would expect from a Scottish album, the drums are very prominent. There are also more backing vocals compared to previous Highlander albums but we tried not to overdo it - we are not the Beach Boys!