

# PENTHESILEA ROAD

*Penthesilea (Greek: Πενθεσίλεια, romanized: Penthesíleia) was an Amazonian queen in Greek mythology, the daughter of Ares and Otrera and the sister of Hippolyta, Antiope and Melanippe. She assisted Troy in the Trojan War, during which she was killed by Achilles. The asteroid 271 Penthesilea, that is found in the asteroid field and discovered in 1887, was named in her honour. And apparently the band Penthesilea Road might be inspired by that character in one way or another, Vito F. Mainolfi explains a few things about the band.*



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Most logically is to start at the beginning, like with Genesis or something like that, and Vito explains how it began and then eventually expanded into what led to the band's debut album that was released earlier this year.

- I am Italian, currently living in the Netherlands, and this Band has been for many years my solo project. I started it in the UK, in

2014, and for a few years I have been publishing some demos fully recorded by myself. It was only in 2020 I went to look for some session musicians to record and publish the debut album.

And in the band, there aren't just anyone as we do see some really well-established names doing guest appearances. So, who are the musicians we hear in *Pentesilea Road*?

- I am mostly playing guitar and bass, there is Ezio Di Ieso playing Piano and Keyboards,

Alfonso Mocerino on the Drums and Lorenzo Nocerino on the vocals. However, there are quite a few special guests: Ray Alder and Mark Zonder from Fates Warning, Michele Guaitoli and Paul Prins.

The debut of Vito's project, now band, is a self-titled one and Vito claims that the title reveals something about the lyrical content. And in that title we find some literary references as well.

- Pentesilea is the metaphor of the globalised world and it is a

clear quote from Calvino's *Invisible Cities* book.

Vito first figured that *Pentesilea Road* was to be a one-man show where he did everything, but he decided to change that to make it into a band instead, a choice he is very happy with.

- I opted to recruit some session musicians in the last phase of creation and it was indeed a great choice. For this album I took care of the music, the lyrics and the artwork. I am really happy with the final result, actually: I do like

the idea of merging different musical styles.

But it wasn't plain sailing in that as there was this pandemic going on making it difficult to meet in a studio to record, things like that putting up challenges in the recording process.

- Due to Corona crisis, it would have been impossible to gather in the same studio. Hence, we opted for a distributed recording. Guitars and Bass were recorded in my home studio and the rest of the instruments were recorded

by all the other members in their respective studios. So, there is a quite strong coordination activity behind the album.

But it was finished and eventually released in February 2021.

### Styles and Future

Judging by having members of Fates Warning doing guest appearances it is easy to imagine that the band gives us something towards the progressive stylings. And progressive is a word used by Vito as well, but it seems as if

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is quite a mix of styles.

- I do like the fusion between different musical styles and in general the wide dynamic within the sound. I do like to describe it as post-progressive. Although not everyone might agree, prog and some post-rock are constantly recurring within the album. Probably post+progressive would have been a better fit but, whatever it is, I hope it will sound distinctive and interesting enough.

Vito explains that he lets the moment drive the music as well as the topic and describes himself as an instinctive composer, and it was his instincts that eventually ended up as the self-titled debut album that we have now. But in the future, he doesn't want to compose everything himself.

- For the next one it will be a full collaboration with the rest of the band!

And they are already on it, writing for the new album, that is their main plan for the future.

- We are pretty busy writing the new album. It will definitely take some time, but I'm sure it will sound fresh, that's the most important thing.

And you cannot say that it is strange considering that there are still limitations around events and such, that they aren't thinking about playing live and doing events like that. But if they were playing live, what band would be the ideal one to open for? I would have guessed Fates Warning considering the guests they had for this one, but there is another band that apparently would be a better match.

- Yeah ok, Iron Maiden. He says with a smile.

So, let's say that Steve (Harris)

and his friends in Iron Maiden wants to have Pentesilea Road opening for them, where should they turn?

- In general, it's myself, handling the communication, while on the promotions side we rely on Angel's Music Productions.

The latter was kind enough to give us the interview that we used for this article, and we end by pointing out that according to Vito you could use the band's facebook page to keep up to date with what the band is doing. With that we thank Vito for his time.

## **Pentesilea Road Are:**

Vito F. Mainolfi - guitars, bass  
Lorenzo Nocerino - vocals  
Michele Guaitoli - vocals  
Ezio Di Ieso - piano, keyboards  
Alfonso Mocerino - drums

With:

Ray Alder - vocals (9,12)  
Mark Zonder - drums (1,4,6)  
Michele Guaitoli - vocals (5)

## **... and some useful links:**

[Listen on Bandcamp](#)  
[Facebook page](#)  
[Band's youtube page](#)