

Section: Sanctus Real – History0

Context: In 1996, lead singer and guitarist Matt Hammitt met guitarist Chris Rohman when they were both tenth graders attending Toledo Christian School in Ohio. They led youth worship at their school and church, and began writing their own music that year. Drummer Mark Graalman and bassist Matt Kollar soon joined, forming the band's original line-up. The group performed their first concert for several friends in the back of a warehouse in December 1996. They released a six-track demo tape in August 1997, and a five-track EP titled *All This Talk of Aliens* in January 1998. Sanctus Real's full-length studio album *Message for the Masses* was released on June 18, 1999, and shortly afterward, bassist Matt Kollar was replaced by Steve Goodrum. Following *Message for the Masses*, which was recorded in a garage, the band made plans to record tracks at a major studio. To earn money for the endeavor, Hammitt and Goodrum took telemarketing jobs for a few months, which were difficult and described by Hammitt as "the most dreadful [jobs] ever". They recorded three songs with producer Skidd Mills in Memphis, Tennessee, and after winning a local radio contest, decided to record an entire independent album with Mills. It was completed in 2000 under the title *Nothing to Lose*, and the band attended 2001's Gospel Music Week in Nashville to distribute copies of the project. From 1996 to 2001, Sanctus Real toured areas of the United States, and also sent demos to several Christian and mainstream record labels. After they received multiple recording contract offers in 2001, the band decided to sign with Sparrow Records. Matt Hammitt said, "At that point, we really had to do some soul searching and figure out where it was we were supposed to be ... Ultimately, we knew we could relate to kids in the church. We are passionate about our faith ... [and] from our personal experience, we felt this was the place we were supposed to be." CANNOTANSWER

STUDENT: **When was the band formed?**

TEACHER: ⇨ In 1996,

STUDENT: **Who were the founding members?**

TEACHER: ⇨ lead singer and guitarist Matt Hammitt met guitarist Chris Rohman

STUDENT: **How did they get their start?**

TEACHER: ⇨ lead singer and guitarist Matt Hammitt met guitarist Chris Rohman when they were both tenth graders attending Toledo Christian School in Ohio.

STUDENT: **What was one of their first songs?**

TEACHER: ⇨ They released a six-track demo tape in August 1997, and a five-track EP titled All This Talk of Aliens in January 1998.

STUDENT: **Did they tour?**

TEACHER: ⇨ Yes, Sanctus Real toured areas of the United States,

STUDENT: **How were they portrayed in the media?**

TEACHER: ⇨ CANNOTANSWER

STUDENT: **Were their songs successful?**

TEACHER: ⇨ Yes, Sanctus Real's full-length studio album Message for the Masses was released

STUDENT: **Did they sign with a record label?**

TEACHER: ⇨ Yes, Following Message for the Masses, which was recorded in a garage, the band made plans to record tracks at a major studio.

STUDENT: **Did they add any additional members to the band?**

TEACHER: ⇨ Yes, Drummer Mark Graalman and bassist Matt Kollar soon joined,

STUDENT: **What was their biggest hit song?**

TEACHER: ⇨ CANNOTANSWER

STUDENT: **Did they have a song that was on the charts?**

TEACHER: ⇨ CANNOTANSWER