

= Sanctus Real =

Sanctus Real is an American Christian rock band formed in Toledo , Ohio , in 1996 . The group is composed of Chris Rohman (lead guitar) , Mark Graalman (drums) , Jake Rye (bass) , Seth Huff (guitar , keys) , and Dustin Lolli (lead vocals) . The band is best known for their number one singles " Lead Me " , " Forgiven " , " Whatever You 're Doing " , " I 'm Not Alright " , " Don 't Give Up " , " We Need Each Other " , " Everything About You " , and " The Fight Song " . Since 2002 , they have released five albums through the Sparrow Records label .

On July 1 , 2015 , lead singer and co @-@ founder , Matt Hammitt , announced that he was leaving the band , effective the end of 2015 .

Sanctus Real formed in 1996 , and the band released three independent albums over five years . After signing with Sparrow Records in 2002 , the group released their major label debut , Say It Loud , at the end of the year . In June 2004 it was followed by Fight the Tide , which garnered a GMA Dove Award win in 2005 , and two singles that charted at number 1 on Christian radio , according to R & R magazine . The band 's third album , The Face of Love , was released in April 2006 . The single " I 'm Not Alright " received a GMA Dove Award nomination in 2007 .

Their fourth album , We Need Each Other (2008) , was recorded in late 2007 and released in February . It received a Grammy Award nomination and spawned the single " We Need Each Other " . Sanctus Real released their fifth studio album in March 2010 , titled Pieces of a Real Heart also receiving a Grammy nomination with Christian Billboard chart topping hits " Lead Me " and " Forgiven " . The band 's music incorporates a modern alternative rock style , and has evolved from power pop to a more melodic and guitar @-@ driven sound .

= = History = =

In 1996 , lead singer and guitarist Matt Hammitt met guitarist Chris Rohman while they were 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 . "

= = = Say It Loud = = =

Toward the end of 2002 , before releasing their first non @-@ independent album , Sanctus Real performed as an opening act on the Festival Con Dios tour . The band also guested on Bleach 's first headlining tour , the We Are Tomorrow tour , in December 2002 . Sanctus Real 's major label

debut , Say It Loud , was then released in December 2002 , through Sparrow Records . The album was produced by former Grammatrain lead vocalist Pete Stewart . Sanctus Real began touring again in February 2003 as a guest band on the See Spot Rock Tour , with Relient K , the O.C. Supertones , Pillar and John Reuben .

= = = Fight the Tide = = =

The band recorded a cover of U2 's song " Beautiful Day " for the compilation album In the Name of Love : Artists United for Africa , which was released at the beginning of 2004 . The track reached number 1 on R & R magazine 's Christian rock chart in 2004 , becoming their first chart @-@ topping single . " Beautiful Day " also received a GMA Dove Award nomination for Modern Rock Song of the Year in 2004 .

In February 2004 , the band went back in studio to record their second album ; almost all of the tracks were written in the previous month . It was recorded in six weeks with producer Tedd T , and soon released under the title Fight the Tide in June 2004 . The lead single " Everything About You " was released in mid @-@ 2004 , and by September it had stayed at number 1 on R & R 's Christian rock chart for six consecutive weeks . The song was later featured on the X 2006 compilation album in 2005 . In September 2004 , Sanctus Real launched their first headlining tour , the Fight the Tide Tour . The tour featured guest bands Hawk Nelson , Seven Places and Ever Stays Red , and traveled through more than 25 cities .

After being nominated in late 2004 , Fight the Tide won the GMA Dove Award for " Modern Rock Album of the Year " in early 2005 . Released near the beginning of the year , " The Fight Song " was Sanctus Real 's next single , and in May 2005 it reached the top of R & R 's Christian rock chart , becoming the band 's third number 1 song . In April 2005 , bass player Steve Goodrum left the band and was replaced by Dan Gartley , a previous touring member of Relient K. Gartley played his first concert with Sanctus Real at the Agape Festival in May 2005 .

= = = The Face of Love = = =

Sanctus Real 's third main studio album , The Face of Love , was released in April 2006 . The album 's first single was " I 'm Not Alright " which became a number 1 song on Christian contemporary hit radio (CHR) , as reported by R & R magazine . It was also the third most played song of 2006 on Christian radio formats . In early 2007 , the band received two GMA Dove Award nominations : " Rock Contemporary Recorded Song of the Year " for " I 'm Not Alright " and " Rock / Contemporary Album of the Year " for The Face of Love . Following the album 's release , Pete Prevost became the fifth member of Sanctus Real as an additional guitarist .

The album 's second single , " Don 't Give Up " , was released in the beginning of 2007 , and by May it became the band 's fifth number 1 track by placing at the top of R & R 's Christian CHR chart . At the end of 2006 they were named the most @-@ played artist of the year on R & R 's Christian CHR chart . The title track " The Face of Love " was also a radio single . Sanctus Real launched another headlining tour in April 2007 , The Face of Love tour , featuring Needtobreathe and This Beautiful Republic .

= = = We Need Each Other = = =

In August 2007 , Sanctus Real returned to the studio to record a fourth album , which was finished by the end of the year . In November 2007 , the album was originally slated for release under the title Turn on the Lights , the name of a track on the album . It was later changed to We Need Each Other , and was released in February 2008 , through Sparrow Records . The title track " We Need Each Other " was released earlier as the album 's lead single in November 2007 . The song stayed at number 1 on R & R 's Christian CHR chart for five consecutive weeks by February 2008 , and it was 2008 's eighth most @-@ played song of the year in the same format .

During early to mid @-@ 2008 , Sanctus Real guested on Third Day 's headlining tour , and that

year they also appeared on an episode of Extreme Makeover : Home Edition . Two more singles from We Need Each Other were released : " Whatever You 're Doing (Something Heavenly) " in early 2008 , and " Turn On the Lights " in August 2008 . Later in the year , the band launched their own two @-@ month We Need Each Other Tour in the United States , passing through 16 states and over 30 cities ; the tour featured guest appearances from VOTA , Tenth Avenue North and speaker Sammy Adebisi . In 2009 , We Need Each Other received a Grammy Award nomination for Best Rock Gospel Album .

= = = Pieces of a Real Heart = = =

In mid November 2009 , Matt Hammitt announced on Twitter that Sanctus Real finished recording their fifth album . The first radio single was titled " Forgiven " , and peaked at No. 6 on the Hot Christian Songs chart . On December 2 , 2009 , the band announced on Twitter and Facebook that they narrowed the final album name down to two options : A Million Hearts and Pieces of a Real Heart , and held a public vote for one hour . Shortly after , it was confirmed that the title Pieces of a Real Heart would be chosen . The album was released on March 9 , 2010 via Sparrow Records .

= = = Run = = =

The sixth studio album by the band was released on February 5 , 2013 , which was called Run , and the lead single from the album is " Promises " . Shortly after the album 's release , both Dan Gartley and Pete Prevost departed the band .

= = = The Dream = = =

Soon after Jake Rye and Seth Huff replaced Gartley and Prevost . The seventh studio album by the band , The Dream , was released on September 16 , 2014 . The first video from the album , " Lay It Down " , was released to YouTube June 24 , 2014 . The second lyric video , titled ' Same God ' , was released by the band on YouTube on October 21 , 2014 .

On July 1 , 2015 , it was made clear that Matt Hammitt , who had founded the band , was leaving in December .

= = = Greatest Hits : Best of Sanctus Real = = =

The Best of Sanctus Real was released on October 9 , 2015 via the Capitol Christian record label . It includes a selection of fourteen songs spanning the band 's previous seven albums and one new song written specifically for the release . It was announced earlier in year that this would be the final project with the band for lead singer , Matt Hammitt .

= = = Dustin Lolli : A new era = = =

The band changed their lead singer to Dustin Lolli in late 2015 , with the first release being an extended play , This Is Love , that was released on February 5 , 2016 , by the band themselves .

= = Touring = =

In April and May 2010 , Sanctus Real debuted the complete new album Pieces of a Real Heart while headlining the UNITED Spring 2010 Tour . Joining them on this 25 @-@ city nationwide tour was visionary and speaker David Nasser along with fellow artists Jonny Diaz and MIKESCHAIR . Sanctus Real announced they would be touring with Winter Jam 2012 on the eastern side of the United States . During their 2012 tour , their tour bus burned to the ground . Sanctus posted a photo on their Facebook page on June 3 , adding all people got off the bus , but their personal belongings were lost . Sanctus Real began The Run Tour in September 2013 and finished in November 2013 .

= = Musical style = =

Sanctus Real 's main genre is typically labeled as Christian rock and alternative CCM . Their first three independent albums were described by Allmusic as power pop . Say It Loud was characterized by increased guitars and a powerful modern rock style . Their second release , Fight the Tide , was described as " melodic power rock " with similarities to Foo Fighters , Jimmy Eat World , Switchfoot , U2 , and PFR . The band 's music on The Face of Love blended the styles from their previous two albums , evolving into less of a heavier rock sound . With We Need Each Other , lead singer Matt Hammitt noted that he " just pushed the limits of what I can do vocally " during some songs , " whether it be on a soft , kind of rustic sounding vocal or whether it be this overdriven , rock high @-@ range kind of vocal . "

= = Members = =

Current members

Chris Rohman ? guitar (1997 ? present)

Mark Graalman ? drums (1996 ? present)

Jake Rye - bass (2013 ? present)

Seth Huff - keys / guitar (2013 ? present)

Dustin Lolli - lead vocalist (2016 ? present)

Former members

Matt Kollar ? bass (1996 @-@ 1999)

Steve Goodrum ? bass (1999 ? 2005)

Michael Gee - Guitar (1996 ? 97)

Dan Gartley ? bass and bells (2005 ? 2013)

Pete Prevost ? guitar , banjo , piano (2006 ? 2013)

Matt Hammitt ? lead vocalist , guitar (1996 ? 2015)

On July 1 , 2015 , Matt Hammitt announced that he was leaving the band , effective December 2015 .

On January 25 , 2016 , Dustin Lolli was announced as the new lead singer and a music video was released for the song " This Is Love " .

= = Awards = =

= = = GMA Dove Awards = = =

2004 : Modern Rock Song of the Year (" Beautiful Day ") ? nominated

2005 : Modern Rock Album of the Year (Fight the Tide) ? won

2007 : Rock / Contemporary Album of the Year (The Face of Love) ? nominated

2007 : Rock / Contemporary Recorded Song of the Year (" I 'm Not Alright ") ? nominated

2011 : Song of the Year (" Lead Me ") ? nominated

2011 : Pop / Contemporary Recorded Song of the Year (" Lead Me ") ? nominated

2011 : Rock / Contemporary Album of the Year (Pieces of a Real Heart) ? nominated

= = = Grammy Awards = = =

2009 : Grammy Award nomination for Best Rock Gospel Album (We Need Each Other) ? nominated

2010 : Grammy Award nomination for Best Contemporary / Pop Gospel Album (Pieces of a Real Heart) ? nominated

= = Discography = =

1998 : All This Talk of Aliens ? independent

1999 : Message for the Masses ? independent

2001 : Nothing to Lose ? independent

2002 : Say It Loud ? Sparrow

2004 : Fight the Tide ? Sparrow

2006 : The Face of Love ? Sparrow

2008 : We Need Each Other ? Sparrow

2010 : Pieces of a Real Heart ? Sparrow

2010 : Pieces of Our Past : The Sanctus Real Anthology - Sparrow

2013 : Run ? Sparrow

2014 : The Dream - Sparrow