

= New Model Army ( band ) =

New Model Army are an English post @-@ punk / alternative rock band formed in Bradford , West Yorkshire in 1980 by lead singer and main composer Justin Sullivan , bassist Stuart Morrow and drummer Phil Tompkins . Sullivan has been the only continuous member of the band , which has seen numerous line @-@ up changes in its 35 year history . Their music draws on influences across the musical spectrum , from punk and folk to soul , metal and classical . Sullivan ' s lyrics , which range from directly political through to spiritual and personal , have always been considered as a key part of the band ' s appeal . By the time they began making their first records in 1983 , Robert Heaton , a former drum technician for Hawkwind , had replaced Tompkins .

Whilst having their roots in punk rock , the band have always been difficult to categorise . In 1999 , when asked about this , Sullivan said " We 've been labelled as punks , post @-@ punks , Goth , metal , folk ? the lot , but we 've always been beyond those style confines " . Following a large turnover of personnel , both permanent and as touring members , as of January 2016 New Model Army comprise Sullivan , Dean White ( keyboards and guitar ) , Michael Dean ( drums ) , Marshall Gill ( guitar ) and Ceri Monger ( bass ) .

= = History = =

= = = Formation and Vengeance ( 1980 ? 84 ) = = =

The band were formed in Bradford , West Yorkshire in the autumn of 1980 , taking their name from Thomas Fairfax 's English Revolution militia , and played their first concert in Bradford in October , playing songs based on their shared love of punk rock and Northern soul . Sullivan used the alter ego of " Slade the Leveller " until the mid @-@ 1980s , supposedly so that he would not lose his unemployment benefits if the authorities realized he was making money from music . They continued to gig around the United Kingdom with little recognition , but in 1983 released their first singles " Bittersweet " and " Great Expectations " on Abstract Records , and were given airplay by Radio 1 's John Peel . In February 1984 they were invited to play on popular music show " The Tube " , being introduced by presenter Muriel Gray as " the ugliest band in rock and roll " . The producers of the show however were concerned about the lyrics of " Vengeance " , which the band were due to perform ( " I believe in justice / I believe in vengeance / I believe in getting the bastards " ) and so the band played " Christian Militia " and " Great Expectations " . Following this performance , the band 's first mini @-@ album Vengeance reached Number 1 in the UK independent chart in early 1984 , pushing The Smiths from that position . After a further single " The Price " also reached a high placing in the independent charts , the band were signed by major label EMI .

= = = The major label years ( 1985 ? 93 ) = = =

The band then made five studio albums ( plus a live album ) for EMI and one studio album for Epic , in a period of eight years . 1985 's No Rest for the Wicked and associated single " No Rest " both made the mainstream Top 30 in the UK , the latter leading to some controversy when the band sported t @-@ shirts with the phrase " Only Stupid Bastards Use Heroin " during an appearance on Top of the Pops . During the " No Rest " tour , Morrow left the band , and after some delay was replaced by 17 @-@ year @-@ old Jason " Moose " Harris . However the band were refused work permits to enter the United States , as the US Immigration Department had said the band 's work was of " no artistic merit " .

In December 1986 the band finally got permission to tour in the US . By this time The Ghost of Cain , produced by notable producer Glyn Johns , had been released , and was named best album of the year for 1986 in The Times by lead music writer David Sinclair , who said that it " was the best thing to happen to English rock music since the first Clash album " . Concerts included Reading Festival and a gig with David Bowie in front of the Reichstag in Berlin , and the band for the first time

expanded their touring line @-@ up to include a second guitarist in the shape of Ricky Warwick , as well as harmonica player Mark Feltham from Nine Below Zero .

Thunder and Consolation was released in February 1989 , and saw the band moving towards a more folk @-@ rock sound , especially on the tracks including violinist Ed Alleyne @-@ Johnson . Described as the band 's " landmark " album , it reached No.20 in the UK charts , the singles " Stupid Questions " and " Vagabonds " made an impression in America and the band was able to tour the album there with Alleyne @-@ Johnson also providing additional guitar and keyboards . At the end of the year however , Harris left the band , to be replaced by Peter " Nelson " Nice , who would play with the band for more than 20 years . 1990 's Impurity , continued the folk @-@ driven theme with Alleyne @-@ Johnson still to the fore , and Adrian Portas joining the band on guitar .

The next album was to be a musical change of direction ; as Sullivan later said , " just as this folk @-@ cum @-@ rave @-@ cum @-@ crusty @-@ cum @-@ new @-@ age thing broke and became big in the early 1990s , we went ? whoosh ? done that ? and went and made a very angry hard rock album " . The Love of Hopeless Causes , New Model Army 's only release on Epic Records , appeared in 1993 and led with the single " Here Comes the War " , which spawned controversy when it came packaged with instructions on how to construct a nuclear device .

= = = Hiatus and return to independence ( 1994 ? 2000 ) = = =

The band had previously decided to take a year out to concentrate on personal and other musical issues , and reconvened in late 1994 with Dean White , playing keyboards and guitar , replacing Alleyne @-@ Johnson . It became clear , that all was not well between Sullivan and Heaton ; Sullivan later said " We wrote Thunder and Consolation and it was brilliant , but very shortly after that , we started falling out , which went on during the making of that album . His life went in one direction and mine went in another " . It was agreed that they would go their separate ways after the forthcoming album and tour . Strange Brotherhood was released in May 1998 to unsurprisingly mixed reviews , but then Heaton was diagnosed with a brain tumour . He suggested that his drum technician Michael Dean take over from him to tour the album . By this time the band had formed their own independent label , Attack Attack , and former tour manager Tommy Tee had returned to manage the band . A live album " ... & Nobody Else " followed in 1999 , and eighth studio album Eight in 2000 .

= = = Death of Robert Heaton , and Carnival to Today is a Good Day ( 2001 ? 09 ) = = =

After touring Eight , the band again took time out , most notably so that Sullivan could concentrate on his solo album Navigating by the Stars which was eventually released in 2003 , and toured by Sullivan , Dean and White . As the band got together to record their ninth album , Robert Heaton died from pancreatic cancer on 4 November 2004 . Carnival was finally released in September 2005 , and includes Sullivan 's reaction to Heaton 's death , " Fireworks Night " . Dave Blomberg was unable to take part in touring the album , and was replaced by current guitarist Marshall Gill .

The band 's tenth studio album , High , was produced relatively quickly and was released in August 2007 . The tour suffered a slight setback when the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services again denied the band visas ; this time the issue was relatively quickly resolved and the dates rescheduled for early 2008 . Soon afterwards , the band was again shaken as manager Tommy Tee died unexpectedly at the age of 46 . By 2009 , though , the band were again back in the studio . Today Is a Good Day was a far more uncompromising album , the heavy rock title track and others directly referencing the stock market crash of 2008 . As the tour to promote the album came to an end , it was drawing close to 30 years since the band had started .

= = = 30th anniversary to present ( 2010 ? ) = = =

Towards the end of 2010 , the band 's 30th anniversary was celebrated with special shows across four continents every weekend from September until early December ; in most cities , the shows

were across two nights with completely different sets , the band having promised to play at least four songs from each of their eleven studio albums plus Lost Songs and B @-@ Sides and Abandoned Tracks , their rarities and B @-@ sides collections . The final shows at the Kentish Town Forum in London were collected on a double CD and DVD release containing all 58 songs played over the nights of 3 and 4 December .

After the band had played their traditional Christmas shows the following year , the news was released that Nelson had decided to leave the band for personal reasons , a decision that had been taken some time before . A few days later , on Christmas Eve , a fire destroyed the band 's studio and rehearsal space in Bradford . Numerous guitars and other instruments were lost along with recording equipment and memorabilia . However , the studio was back in operation within three months , and after a number of auditions , Ceri Monger was announced as the band 's new bassist and multi @-@ instrumentalist .

In 2013 , the band 's twelfth studio album , Between Dog and Wolf , produced by Joe Barresi , was released and became the band 's most successful since The Love of Hopeless Causes 20 years earlier . The album showed a marked shift away from the band 's traditional sounds , including rhythms that were described as " tribal " , though Sullivan claimed they were merely different ways of using drums ? " We really like complex tom @-@ tom rhythms , we really like that pounding ( beat ) " . A year later , Between Wine and Blood was released , including six previously unreleased studio tracks from the Between Dog and Wolf sessions , along with eleven live tracks from that album . In October 2014 , a documentary feature film about the band 's career , Between Dog and Wolf : The New Model Army Story by director Matt Reid premiered at the Raindance Film Festival in London and the Festival du nouveau cinéma in Montreal . In April 2016 , the band announced that their 14th studio album , entitled Winter , would be released in late August .

= = Timeline of major contributors = =

This is a list of musicians who were ( or currently have been ) a permanent - not touring - member of the band for a significant amount of time .

= = " The Family " = =

Over the years , New Model Army have gathered a wide selection of fans , many of whom dedicatedly follow the band . Originally calling themselves " The Militia " , after the song " Christian Militia " , the term " The Family " was later universally adopted for what is a multi @-@ generational and gendered group . Joolz Denby , long @-@ time collaborator of Sullivan and the band 's main artist has referred to The Family as " not a formal , contrived organisation , but a spontaneous sense of fellowship that has developed over the years " , whilst elsewhere it has been described as " sanctuary ... and acceptance " .

= = Discography = =

Vengeance ( 1984 )  
No Rest for the Wicked ( 1985 )  
The Ghost of Cain ( 1986 )  
Thunder and Consolation ( 1989 )  
Impurity ( 1990 )  
The Love of Hopeless Causes ( 1993 )  
Strange Brotherhood ( 1998 )  
Eight ( 2000 )  
Carnival ( 2005 )  
High ( 2007 )  
Today Is a Good Day ( 2009 )  
Between Dog and Wolf ( 2013 )

Between Wine and Blood ( 2014 )

Winter ( 2016 )