

= Taxiride =

Taxiride is an Australian rock band . Formed in 1997 , the band consists of lead singer Jason Singh , guitarists Dan Hall and Tim Wild , and drummer Sean McLeod .

Prior to formation , the four founding members of Taxiride ? Singh , Wild , Hall , and Tim Watson ? had been playing in cover bands around Melbourne , travelling around in a yellow Ford Falcon EB ex @-@ taxi . The quartet recorded an EP , which a taxi @-@ driving friend of theirs helped promote . They took their name from the experience had by passengers hearing their music on a taxi ride . After their music was heard by an executive from record label Warner , the band signed a contract and released their debut album , *Imagine* , in 1999 . This was followed by 2002 's *Garage Mahal* . Both albums were certified platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association ( ARIA ) . 2005 's *Axiomatic* did not follow in the success of its predecessors .

Taxiride 's musical style has changed significantly over the course of their career ? what began as a pop / pub rock band on their first two albums moved to a much more heavy sound on later works . Throughout their history , the band has had multiple lead singers and songwriters on the majority of their songs . As of 2006 , the future of Taxiride has been uncertain . They have continued to tour , mostly as the supporting act for larger names , however Singh is now working on a solo album and Taxiride 's website states that the band is on a hiatus .

= = History = =

= = = Formation and early work ( 1997 ? 1999 ) = = =

Prior to forming Taxiride , Tim Watson , Tim Wild , Jason Singh , and Dan Hall had each played in cover bands across Melbourne . Watson and Wild began writing together in 1997 in Camberwell , Melbourne , and soon recruited Singh as an additional vocalist . The trio invited Hall , whom Wild first encountered busking , to join the group , and he accepted . The band named themselves Taxiride because they had given some of their early work to a friend of theirs , a taxi driver , who had tested these songs on passengers . The group produced a demo at Melbourne 's Secret Sound Studios , and used it to land a contract with Warner in Australia . Meanwhile , a friend of the group passed their work onto a Sire Records executive in the U.S. , who signed them despite the group being unknown .

= = = Pop success ( 1999 ? 2002 ) = = =

In 1998 , Taxiride relocated to Ocean Way Recording studios in Los Angeles to work with producer Jack Joseph Puig on their debut album . *Imagine* , released on 1 June 1999 in the U.S. and 18 October in Australia , reached number one on the ARIA Albums Chart , with debut single " Get Set " reaching number eight on the ARIA Singles Chart , number 41 on the New Zealand Singles Chart , and number 36 on the Hot Modern Rock Tracks chart . " Get Set " won the 1999 ARIA Award for " Breakthrough Artist - Single " and was nominated for " Best Pop Release " , while *Imagine* was nominated for " Breakthrough Artist - Album " and " Highest Selling Album " in 2000 . *Imagine* was certified double platinum , indicating an excess of 140 @,@ 000 sales .

Taxiride wrote the majority of the album in a studio , and the final product generally used songs that band members had worked on individually . *Imagine* earned a mediocre reception from critics . Steve Kurutz of Allmusic gave it three stars , calling the album a " slick ... bid for pop radio " . The use of a sitar on " Get Set " was praised , as was the Beatles influence and Puig 's production . To promote the album , Taxiride toured Australia , America , Japan , and Europe , with the album selling well in all areas . Despite the album 's success , Hall , then lead singer , left the band to work independently and with his other pet project , Airway Lanes . Hall said he was unhappy with " the pop direction the band was taking " .

Following Hall 's departure , the band recruited drummer Sean McLeod and bass guitarist Andy

Mclvor , and began work on their second album . Garage Mahal was released on 5 August 2002 , and produced three singles : " Creepin ' Up Slowly " , " How I Got This Way " , and " Afterglow " . All three songs charted in Australia ; " Creepin ' Up Slowly " was the most successful at number six , also reaching number 19 in New Zealand . In 2002 , Garage Mahal and " Creepin ' Up Slowly " were certified platinum by ARIA .

Much of Garage Mahal was written on the road , while touring , and as such had a different sound from the band 's prior work . Most of the writing was done in two places ; Mount Macedon in Victoria , and Palindrome Studio in Venice Beach , California , the home of producer Fred Maher . Mixing was done by David Way and Mike Shipley . Despite the change in sound , the band were still seen as purely a pop band ? Australian Musician magazine claimed this was because they spent too much time overseas . Gary Glauber of PopMatters praised the album , noting it had not lost the quality of its predecessor , although it was a good deal heavier . Glauber reported on the overall high quality of songs , noting that " almost any of these songs could work as a single " , and calling the lyrics of " Creepin ' Up Slowly " " perpetually catchy " . Bernard Zuel of The Sydney Morning Herald said that the band did not hold back in their aim for American radio , calling the lyrics overly generic , and arguing the band only focused on their mainstream image .

= = = Independent and acoustic ( 2003 ? 2006 ) = = =

Watson left Taxiride in 2003 , and the band began work on a new album . They decided to release independently after splitting up with Warner Music , and recorded at Wild 's Melbourne home for a total of 12 months . During that time , the band collaborated with vocalist Chris Bailey ( The Saints lead singer ) and Hall , who took time out from working with Airway Lanes . Taxiride 's third album , Axiomatic , was released on 5 September 2005 , shortly after the first single , " Oh Yeah " . It would be the only song to chart from the album , reaching number 40 in Australia . To support the album , the band toured India as part of VH1 's Rock Rumble .

In creating Axiomatic , Taxiride worked independently , moving away from record labels in an attempt to make an album that would better reflect the music they wanted to produce . The band 's prior albums were described by Singh as being Americanised , and the band now wanted to make " an Australian record " . Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin influences were common ; " Oh Yeah " was recorded using a vocoder , which was popular in the 1970s . The album was described as containing " heavier rock sounds " than its predecessors .

Following the release of Axiomatic , Wild and Singh began to write new songs , accompanied by Hall . The band 's first live album , Electrophobia , was released on 16 September 2006 on Australian record label Liberation . It features songs from the band 's first three albums , all recorded in a standalone session in a Melbourne church on 26 May 2006 . The production was arranged by Rob John ( producer for Led Zeppelin and The Tea Party ) .

Andy Mclvor left the band in 2006 , and is now playing with former Australian crawl member James Reyne

= = Musical style = =

Taxiride is primarily a pop rock band , also drawing influences from pub rock . On Electrophobia , they showed a different side , playing acoustic music for the first time . The band 's style has progressed over their career ; the pop direction the band took in the Imagine era caused Hall to leave the group , only to return for heavier rock collaborations in the Axiomatic days . Allmusic 's Ed Nimmervoll said that the band distanced themselves from the boy band generation , comparing them to Crosby , Stills , Nash , & Young . Steve Kurutz , in reviewing Imagine , related the album to the pop work of boy bands The Beatles , The Beach Boys , and The Everly Brothers , labeling the album as a bid for pop radio .

The International Herald Tribune 's Mike Zwerin noted the band 's style of having " four lead singers , four potential front men " ? Imagine 's strength was in their collective sound , argued Zwerin . On Garage Mahal , Taxiride had three active singer @-@ songwriters , with their strong opinions on

musical content clashing frequently . Singh told Dan Grunebaum of Metropolis Tokyo that the arguments came about " because we were very passionate about what goes down onto tape " , and so they were resolved by recognising the overall goal of the band 's work .

= = Band member timeline = =

= = Discography = =

Studio albums

Imaginate ( 1999 )

Garage Mahal ( 2002 )

Axiomatic ( 2005 )

Live albums

Electrophobia ( 2006 )