

STARS AND THE UNDERGROUND



Post-Punk, Shoegaze and Dark Synthwave from New Zealand

STARS AND THE UNDERGROUND

-BIO

Stars and the Underground is the musical project of Auckland, New Zealand based singer songwriter John Mason.

Formed in 2019, the band has released an EP "Evolution Circle" and two singles to date, "Nosferatu Upon Tyne" (2020) and "Lonely Black Hearts" (2025) both to critical acclaim.

The band is currently working on their debut album "Guardians of the Night" due for release mid 2026.

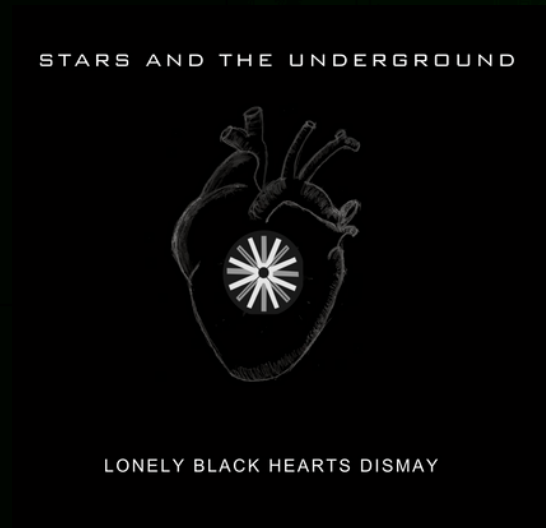
We have performed live in New Zealand and Australia with a variety of line ups and guest musicians and with artists such as Drab Majesty(US), Ikon(AU) and Sounds Like Winter (AU).

The current line up is John Mason (Vocals/Guitar) ex Winterland and John McDermott (Drums) ex Headless Chickens.

Stars and the Underground's music is a blend of Post-Punk, Shoegaze and Dark Synthwave with influences from bands such as The Cure, The Church, The Mission, Joy Division, Depeche Mode, The Chameleons, Flying Colors, My Bloody Valentine, Drab Majesty, Twin Tribes and Kælan Mikla.

STARS AND THE UNDERGROUND

-RELEASES



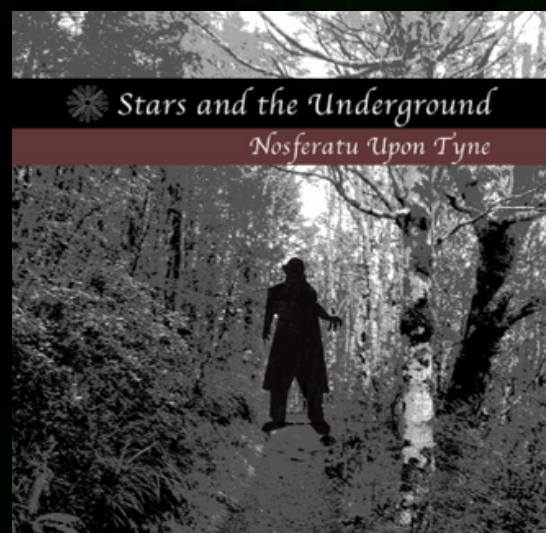
Lonely Black Hearts (Single) - 2025

Words and Music : John Mason

Performed By : John Mason (Vocals, Guitars, Keyboards, Bass), John McDermott (Drums)

Recorded and Mixed and Mastered By : John McDermott at Arch Hill Studios

From the new album “Guardians of the Night”



Nosferatu Upon Tyne (Single) - 2020

Words and Music : John Mason, Cat Veen, Ario Manufui, Sean O’Kane Connolly

Performed By : John Mason, Cat Veen, Ario Manufui, Sean O’Kane Connolly, John McDermott

Recorded and Mixed : John McDermott at Arch Hill Studios

Mastered By : Simon Polinski @ Hesius Dome, Melbourne



Evolution Circle (EP) - 2019

Words and Music : John Mason and Sean O’Kane Connolly

Performed By : John Mason and Sean O’Kane Connolly

Recorded and Mixed and Mastered By : Darryn Harkness at the Tone Exchange

NZ and Au Tour Sampler

05/04/2025	Dark Music Night w/ Robots In Love, Breaches	Voodoo Lounge, Tauranga, NZ
05/04/2025	Goth Night w/ Robots In Love, Breaches	Ding Dong Lounge, Auckland, NZ
05/04/2025	w/ The Liars	Claire Inn, Auckland, NZ
05/04/2025	Goth Night	Ding Dong Lounge, Auckland, NZ
05/04/2025	w/ Other Voices	Whammy Bar, Auckland ,NZ
29/08/2022	w/ After The Flesh	Wine Cellar, Auckland ,NZ
22/01/2022	Gathering Shadows	Valhalla, Wellington, NZ
31/07/2021	w/ Lichtbeuger, Creassault	Thirsty Dog, Auckland, NZ
20/12/2020	Concierto Solidario, Live Stream	Radio Subte Lima Sur(Peru)
19/09/2020	Dark Shadows	Nirvara Lounge, Hamilton, NZ
19/11/2019	Shadowplay	Moon 1, Wellington, NZ
17/08/2019	Freaking the Dog	Thirsty Dog, Auckland, NZ
06/07/2019	w/ Swallow the Rat, Mothra, Robots in Love	Whammy Bar Auckland, NZ
08/06/2019	w/ Sounds Like Winter, Lichtbeuger	The Townie, Sydney, Australia
09/06/2019	w/ Robots In Love, Lichtbeuger	The Tote, Melbourne, Australia
01/06/2019	w/ Lichtbeuger	The Thirsty Dog, Auckland, NZ
27/01/2019	w/ Drab Majesty	Whammy Backroom, Auckland, NZ

STARS AND THE UNDERGROUND

-PRESS & LINKS

"Stars and the Underground conjure a dark synthwave and shoegaze sound that drifts like cathedral smoke and sways like twilight on the tide. Guitars chime and shimmer with celestial clarity, while basslines brood beneath, steady as sleepwalks. Vocals echo like lost prayers, half-whispered, half-resolved. Drawing from the same windswept well as The Church and The Mission, they summon atmosphere over aggression, beauty over bombast, mood over momentum..."

— Alice Teeple, [Post-Punk.com](#)

"After a two-year silence, Stars and the Underground are back—louder, darker, and more cinematic than ever. Their new single 'Lonely Black Hearts' marks the first taste of their upcoming album Guardians of the Night, a brooding blend of post-punk, synthwave, and shoegaze that's already turning heads internationally..."

— Nick, [EmptySpaces.co.nz](#)

"Dark Soulful Post Punk from New Zealand..."

— Mick Mercer (UK), the longest running Goth and Post-Punk writer in the world.

"Moody, atmospheric textured landscapes of sound which wash out like smooth rolling waves..."

— Rev Orange Peel, [13thfloor.co.nz](#)

<https://linktr.ee/satu.co.nz>

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