

the pineapple thief

The Pineapple Thief was formed by Bruce Soord, in 1999. Initially a solo studio project, the band has grown into a globally gigging outfit, with 7 albums under their belt and legions of fans throughout the world, from San Francisco to Siberia. The band name is derived from an obscure American film called *Eve's Bayou*, in which there is a scene where a young girl steals a pineapple (Scene 29 on the DVD release is titled 'Pineapple Thief').

The band grew from humble beginnings. The debut album 'Abducting the Unicorn' rose from the ashes of Bruce's former band, 'Vulgar Unicorn' and was released on the little known underground label Cyclops Records. The idea was to create a vehicle to realise Bruce's personal musical ambitions. Initial sales were slow. However, a glowing review in a major Dutch publication pushed the band through to a waiting and eager fan base. Encouraged by this, Bruce ventured back into the studio and released the follow up, '137' in 2001. A third album, 'Variations on a Dream' followed in 2003. Remarkably on such a small label, sales continued to grow and fans continued to climb on board. It was the increasing demands from fans for a live performance that inevitably led to the formation of a full band, which originally consisted of former university mate Jon Sykes (bass), Wayne Higgins (guitars), Matt O'Leary (keyboards) and Keith Harrison (drums).



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By now, the band was by far the largest seller on Cyclops and performing regular shows across the UK and Europe along with festival appearances in North America. Two further albums followed, *10 Stories Down* (2005) and *Little Man* (2006). During this period the band line up shifted around with Wayne Higgins and Matt O'Leary leaving and Steve Kitch (who co-produced and mixed the albums since *10 Stories Down*) stepping in to replace Matt on keyboards. In 2007 the band took a vital step that was to propel them to a wider audience when they approached Kscope, a brand new division of Snapper Music. By this time, it was clear that the band had outgrown Cyclops and needed the backing of a large label. In an instance, Kscope made an offer to the band and they have never looked back since. After delivering a special album to Cyclops to fulfill their contractual obligations ('What We Have Sown' in 2007) the band returned to the studio to record their seventh album, 'Tightly Unwound'. This was the inaugural release on the Kscope label which has subsequently featured releases by Anathema, Lunatic Soul (Riverside) and Steven Wilson among others.

Since its release in 2008, *Tightly Unwound* has sold extremely well in the UK and throughout Europe, with North America now emerging as a major territory for the band. This latest album marks a significant step forward in the band's development and highlights the maturity of their song writing. Previous reviews have drawn comparisons to Radiohead, Sigur Ros, Pink Floyd and Elbow but *Tightly Unwound* proves that Bruce and the band have moved beyond these influences to create their own unique sound. Add to this a live show that is currently wowing crowds across Europe and you find The Pineapple Thief ready to embark on their latest and most ambitious journey.



For further information please visit www.pineapplethief.com