

StoneWire Biography

Sky Hunter – Vocals

Gareth Annable – Guitar

Duncan Greenway – Guitar

Steve Briggs – Bass

Robert Glasner – Drums

It's not uncommon for a band to spend five years carefully crafting the follow-up to a critically acclaimed album. Def Leppard required half a decade to deliver Hysteria's successor. Load was released five years after Metallica's multi-million selling Black album. And The Rolling Stones lay dormant between 1989 and 1994 before Voodoo Lounge finally followed runaway success Steel Wheels.

StoneWire are in exalted company when it comes to taking time to release their next record but the follow-up to 2014's *When The Crow Flies* was never meant to be five years in the making. Far from it.

"We can laugh about it now," says Sky "but our search for a second guitarist was a momentum killer. It got to a point where we considered breaking up, but we just love music too much to do that."

That love manifested itself in 2019's stunning *Life As We Know It*. StoneWire's striking response to adversity is a politically charged record rich in social commentary which more than justifies that often painful search for a second six-stringer. *Life As We Know It* is the sound of a band reborn and the sound of a passion reignited. As a foursome StoneWire made a strident statement of intent. But as a five-piece this hard rocking band of nations really means business.

For Hunter, who quit her local church choir to worship at the altar of rock, *Life As We Know It* is a true representation of her musical vision and a testimony to the production skills of StoneWire drummer Rob Glasner.

"Rob has a fantastic ear for the music and is able to detach himself from the band and look at what we've done from a different angle," added Hunter. "He approaches the production from an outsider's perspective and it works really well."

"He lets everybody do their work and then he'll suggest somebody does it that way and somebody does it this way and he knows how to bring it all together. *Life As We Know It* definitely captures the live sound that we were looking for. It's more raw and not so polished." That raw edge and lack of varnish was what drew a pre-teen Hunter towards rock and roll in the first place. That it became a life's passion is down to one song - the groove laden Detroit Rock City. "I discovered rock and roll when I was nine," she added. "I heard Kiss and I was hooked. I will never forget it. It seemed so cool at the time."

"I'm originally from Germany and my father is from the Czech Republic. In terms of music I had a very traditional and, I suppose, boring upbringing. There was no rock and roll in our house and that was a hangover from when my father lived under Soviet rule in the Czech Republic – the Russians simply wouldn't allow rock and roll! Although I have moved away from Kiss, I still remember that after hearing their thumping grooves, I just knew that's what I wanted to do."

If 2019 marks the end of the road for Kiss then it's simply the end of the beginning for StoneWire. Six years in and they've finally hit their stride with a settled line-up and a score to settle.

"It's not been easy but I really believe in this band," added Hunter. "Steve Biggs [bass] is a doom and stoner kind of dude at heart but he loves his Southern rock and always liked what we were doing. Gaz [Annable, guitar] came on board soon after and we were a four-piece for a while but we needed another guitarist.

"Pete Friesen [Alice Cooper, The Almighty, Bruce Dickinson] helped us out with the first record and at that point we realised we were better with two guitarists. That's when the fun started! After several failed attempts and over the course of four years we went through four different guitarists before finally landing Duncan Greenway"

Greenway completed a line-up that's primed to reclaim its position at the forefront of the British rock scene - fusing elements of Classic rock, Blues, Southern rock and metal to create a melting pot of addictive melody and biting riffs. Not since Hunter swapped her sleepy German upbringing for the buzz of Camden Town has the singer songwriter felt so wildly optimistic and utterly energised.

"Germany is a very different kind of place when you're a female fronting a band," explained Hunter. "It was frustrating to a degree. And in 1997 Rob and I decided that we wanted to get more out of our music. So we moved to the UK.

"We mingled in the Camden scene and did some work with Metalworks for a while. We played with London-based musicians but we actually started going backwards and forwards between the UK and Germany. Suddenly, because we were London-based, we had more of an appeal to our home market – we became hot property in Europe almost because of the fact we'd left Germany!

"Eventually we moved out to Kent. We wanted to build our own studio as we'd become a little disillusioned with the London scene. Everyone is a rock star there and everyone plays for so many bands. The number of gigs we had to cancel at the last minute due to other musicians dropping out was so frustrating – it was our name and our reputation that was suffering."

With Life As We Know It expect that reputation to soar. And don't expect to wait another five years for the follow-up to StoneWire's second long player. "We're making up for lost time," insisted Hunter. "And that means making more new music!"