

*"You'll never go anywhere with a band name like that, playing that type of music....."*

...was a common phrase heard by the members of St. Paul based metal band, Cwn Annwn (pronounced, Coon-uh-NOON, loosely translating as The Hounds of Hell in Welsh mythos.) Their music was outdated. It didn't sound like what was popular. But deaf to the criticism, Cwn Annwn diligently and painstakingly honed their craft. Naysayers slowly but surely became supporters as Cwn Annwn's intense live performances led to capacity crowds at First Avenue, Triple Rock Social Club, Station 4, and other venues throughout the region. Their vision of metal was validated through direct support for established national acts, including Trivium, All That Remains, Exodus, 3 Inches of Blood, Chimaira, Prong, Testament, After Forever, Metal Church, Crisis, Five Finger Death Punch, Watch Them Die, Gojira, Divine Heresy, Iced Earth, Early Man, and others.



Left to right: Jake Stone (Drums) - Neil James (Guitars/vox)  
Mike Strohkirch (Bass/vox) - Julie Schultz (Lead vox)  
Harry Rostovtsev (Guitars)

Cwn Annwn's music, while decidedly metal, combines a wide array of musical influences to form a sound that is familiar, yet unique. Guitar player and main vocalist Neil James' solos and harmonies evoke classic Maiden and Metallica, while bassist Mike Strohkirch's quirky Primus influenced basslines give Cwn Annwn's riffs their distinctive quality. Guitar player Harry Rostovtsev brings a technical aspect derived from Dream Theater prog and Gothenburg pioneers At the Gates. In 2005, drummer Jake Stone joined the group, replacing long-time drummer Marty Allison, integrating his passion for the complex arrangements of Rush and Mars Volta.

Then, in 2007, shortly after the release of their critically acclaimed debut full length "The Method of Murder," Cwn Annwn shocked their fanbase by announcing that ex-Vile Red singer Julie Schultz would be taking over primary vocal duties, with original frontman Neil James stepping back to focus solely on guitars. Schultz' dynamic voice integrated seamlessly into the band's material, introducing a power and intensity unknown from the band's previous offerings. In 2008, Cwn Annwn released "Blood of the Djinn," the first release to feature Schultz' vocals. Title track "The Djinn" achieved Garageband.com's Track of the Day status and has received rotation on local and regional radio.

With plans to expand their presence throughout the Midwest, and record a full length album, Cwn Annwn is more determined than ever to bring their brand of metal to the masses!

# CWN ANNWN

BAND BIOGRAPHY

For booking, management, and further press, contact Neil James at Nightshade Music

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