

Ten Centurions was formed in 2015 by multi-instrumentalist, singer and composer David Vaughan, together with long-time collaborator Mauro Paderni on electric guitar. The London-based synth duo released their first EP in 2017, gaining immediate support from synth-pop aficionado and former Visage drummer Rusty Egan. The EP went on to spark further interest when Vaughan was approached by Spandau Ballet following the departure of Tony Hadley. After a secret audition for the position of lead singer, Gary Kemp hailed Vaughan as a unique singer with a “superb voice”. It marked an early milestone for Ten Centurions, but the years since have seen Vaughan and Paderni focus on developing the identity of the band and the sound they originally set out to create.

Since 2021, Ten Centurions have been working on their nine-track debut album, Dreambirds, due for release in 2027. The album was written during the third COVID-19 lockdown when the atmosphere of restricted activity, introspection and danger created a heightened need both to find meaning and to find release in the music being made.

When Ten Centurions was formed, it was with a particular sense of what the music could be. In Vaughan’s mind was something of dramatic power and mystery, a vision of boldly rooted men and women expressing order, strength and vitality, led by a figure of both authority and inspiration. As such, the name Ten Centurions made absolute sense, and each release since has attempted to include songs that express this idea and ethos. That original vision sits at the heart of the debut album, although its nine tracks explore it from several different angles. Songs including “Hold Me”, “Let Us Be Free” and “We Are Invincible” fulfil the ambition to express power and mystery, while “Weathervane Man” and “I With You” offer something much simpler and more reassuring.

There has also been a deliberate attempt to vary the themes across the record. The effect of technology on individuals and society returns as a favourite subject, alongside the ever-present question of death and mortality. Questions surrounding solitude and creativity are also touched on, while semi-political, spiritual and love themes broaden the scope of the album.

Importantly, Dreambirds is designed to be listened to in one sitting, with each song leading the listener through a journey towards the album’s end. Rather than viewing the nine tracks as entirely separate pieces, Ten Centurions have approached the record as a complete listening experience.
At the centre of that experience is what Vaughan describes as the “Ten Centurions treatment”: the extensive use of synthesisers, the incisive and original guitar playing of

Paderni and the constant necessity to mould songs in ways that fit the shape of Vaughan's unusual baritone voice. That electro-synthetic blend remains the fundamental calling card of the band, although the introduction of live drums, bass, percussion and backing vocals has rounded out the sound and set the album more solidly within the rock-pop genre. Synthesis, drum sequencing and sample loops meet a full rock band to create elegant, punchy grooves, mysterious atmospheres and majestic climaxes.

Although the sound is neither retro nor revivalist, its influences remain decidedly rooted in the Eighties and Nineties, the decades that had the strongest impact on Vaughan and Paderni as young musicians. Comparisons can be made to artists including Depeche Mode, Gary Numan, Prince and David Bowie, while Paderni's love of harder rock brings another dimension to the band's sound. Ten Centurions ultimately hope to create something that stands apart from their influences, "something that ultimately seeks to be neither accommodating nor rebellious, but instead represents a moment of genuine transcendence towards a sense of benevolent power."

Ten Centurions have received exposure from Riverside Radio, Artefaktor Radio, TD1 FM in Scotland and Radio Belluno in Italy, a country with which Vaughan has long-standing connections after living there between 1999 and 2004. Rusty Egan later featured Vaughan's voice in a remix of Ten Centurions' "My Final Stitch in Time", which opened his 2019 release *Rusty Egan Presents: Welcome to the Remix, Vol. 2*. Vaughan was also briefly considered as a potential lead singer for a relaunch of Visage, with Ten Centurions subsequently releasing their own version of the Visage track "Visa-Age" in 2020.

Now, with their debut album approaching, Ten Centurions are bringing together more than a decade of ideas, influences and experimentation into their most complete statement to date.

LINKS

Website: www.tencenturions.com

Spotify: https://open.spotify.com/artist/3UrcHqqBEBJkVxYKRqTrO4?si=3NyrZ4dCRIibrq4Eqewwow

Apple Music: https://music.apple.com/gb/artist/ten-centurions/1278616955

Instagram & TikTok: @tencenturions

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/TenCenturions

SoundCloud: https://soundcloud.com/ten-centurions

CONTACTS

david@tencenturions.com

lydia@lpragency.com