

# EUROPE

HISTORY 2

[www.europethebandmuseum.com](http://www.europethebandmuseum.com)

## Biography

### Early days (1979–1985)

The first incarnation of the band was named *Force* and came together in 1979, in [Upplands Väsby, Stockholm](#), and was integrated by [vocalist](#) and [keyboardist Joey Tempest](#), [guitarist John Norum](#), [bassist Peter Olsson](#) and [drummer Tony Reno](#).<sup>[4]</sup> "I remember when we started the band Force we were playing covers in the rehearsal room, because we just wanted to learn our instruments, like all bands," Tempest said, "Then one day I said maybe we should do our own stuff. Nobody had any ideas, so I brought mine into the rehearsal room, and that is when we started writing our own stuff."<sup>[5]</sup>

The band sent several [demos](#) to [record companies](#), but were told that in order to be published they had to cut their hair and sing in Swedish. Two years later, Olsson left the band and was replaced by [John Levén](#).<sup>[4]</sup> Just a couple of months later, Levén joined [Yngwie Malmsteen's](#) band Rising Force, and Malmsteen's former bassist, [Marcel Jacob](#), joined Force. This only lasted for three months, though; Levén apparently had issues with Malmsteen, so he and Jacob traded places again.<sup>[6]</sup>



Joey Tempest

In 1982, Tempest's girlfriend entered Force in the Swedish rock talent contest *Rock-SM*. Competing against 4000 bands, they won the contest thanks to two songs, "In the Future to Come" and "The King Will Return". The reward was a record deal with *Hot Records*. Tempest won the individual award for *Best Lead Singer*, and Norum won the award for *Best Guitarist*.<sup>[4]</sup> Just before the contest, Force changed their name to Europe. The [self-titled debut album](#) was released the following year, and sold well both in Sweden and Japan. The album charted at number 8 in the band's home country and the single "[Seven Doors Hotel](#)" became a Top 10 hit in Japan.<sup>[4]</sup>

The second album [Wings of Tomorrow](#) was released one year later and the single "[Open Your Heart](#)" got interest from [CBS Records](#) who offered them an international contract in 1985.<sup>[4]</sup> "I think one of the most important albums for the band was *Wings of Tomorrow*," Tempest said, "We were learning how to write songs and John started playing some really cool stuff on the guitar. We became a better band and that was a good period for the band."<sup>[2]</sup> Keyboardist [Mic Michaeli](#) was soon recruited to play in live concerts, and became an official member of the band shortly after.<sup>[4]</sup> At the same time, Tony Reno was fired because of his lack of motivation and alleged slacking off on rehearsals. His replacement was [Ian Haugland](#).<sup>[4]</sup>

In 1985 Europe recorded the [soundtrack](#) for the film [On the Loose](#), which gave them the hit "[Rock the Night](#)".<sup>[4]</sup> Several months later Joey Tempest was asked to write a song for the charity project *Swedish Metal Aid*. He wrote "Give a Helping Hand", which would feature the biggest stars of Swedish rock and metal. The income from the sales of the single, which was produced by [Easy Action](#) guitarist [Kee Marcello](#), was donated to the starving people of [Ethiopia](#).<sup>[4]</sup>

## Worldwide success (1985–1992)

In September 1985, Europe started the recording of its next album with [Journey](#) producer [Kevin Elson](#). The result was [The Final Countdown](#). Released on May 26, 1986, the album gave the band its international breakthrough, was certified Triple Platinum in the USA<sup>[8]</sup> and reached number 8 on the [Billboard 200 chart](#).<sup>[2]</sup> The [title track](#), which was based on a keyboard riff composed by Tempest as early as 1981-82,<sup>[4]</sup> was released as the first single and became a worldwide success, peaking at number 1 in 25 countries,<sup>[1]</sup> such as the UK,<sup>[9]</sup> France<sup>[10]</sup> [Spain](#) and Germany.<sup>[11]</sup> The power ballad "[Carrie](#)", which peaked at number 3 on the [Billboard Hot 100 chart](#),<sup>[3]</sup> "[Cherokee](#)" and a re-recorded "Rock the Night" were other hits from the album.

Not satisfied with the album's keyboard-dominated production nor the band's commercialized image, John Norum decided to leave Europe in November 1986 to pursue a solo career.<sup>[4]</sup> "I didn't really like the direction the band was going in," Norum said, "We became this teeny-bopper, bubblegum band and I hated that whole image, the spandex, poodle-rock type of thing. I was more into the heavier, guitar-oriented stuff and it seemed like the keyboards were taking over more and more, and we were becoming more commercial. So I decided to leave. I just wanted to move on and do something else."<sup>[12]</sup>

Kee Marcello was asked to replace him, and after some consideration decided to join the band.<sup>[4]</sup> Marcello joined the band at its commercial peak, no less than three singles from [The Final Countdown](#) reaching the US Top 40.<sup>[3]</sup> The following year included successful tours through [Europe](#) and the USA.

The follow-up to [The Final Countdown](#) was entitled [Out of This World](#) and was released in 1988. The biggest hit from the album was "[Superstitious](#)" which peaked at number 31 on the [Billboard Hot 100](#) and number 9 on the Mainstream Rock Tracks. "[Superstitious](#)" would be the last Europe song to chart in the USA.<sup>[3]</sup> The album was certified platinum in the States and peaked at number 19 on the [Billboard 200 chart](#).<sup>[2][8]</sup> More touring followed, including an American tour with [Def Leppard](#) and a festival gig at the [National Bowl](#) in [Milton Keynes, England](#) with [Bon Jovi](#), [Skid Row](#) and [Vixen](#).<sup>[4]</sup>



Europe in Hamburg 1992

In September 1989, Europe did a gig at the [Whisky a Go Go](#) club in [West Hollywood, California](#), under the [pseudonym](#) [Le Baron Boys](#).<sup>[13]</sup> That name would later be used as a title for a much-circulated Europe [bootleg](#), which contained demo recordings from 1989-90. Two years later, the album [Prisoners in Paradise](#) was released, but received limited media attention due to the "boom" of the [grunge](#) movement, started by [Nirvana](#), [Soundgarden](#), [Alice In Chains](#) and [Pearl Jam](#). Although the sales were low compared to previous albums, the single "[I'll Cry for You](#)" managed to hit number 28 on the UK charts.<sup>[9]</sup> On [New Year's Eve](#) 1991, Europe kicked off a new tour with a show at the [Tokyo Dome](#), in which [Tesla](#), [Thunder](#) and [Metallica](#) also performed. The show was called "Final Countdown '91".<sup>[4][14]</sup>

After ten years of living, recording, and touring together, Europe decided to take a break at the end of the 1992 tour.<sup>[4]</sup> "I remember in the tour bus afterwards we were talking about where the whole thing was going and I think at the time the consensus of the band was we really felt ready for a break," Tempest said, "We felt that it was time to put some roots down and I was really into the idea of making my own solo album."<sup>[15]</sup> In that time, Tempest and Marcello released solo albums whilst the other members participated in several different projects and bands.

### Reunion (1998–present)

The band members started to discuss the possibility of a Europe reunion in 1998.<sup>[15]</sup> "Mic and Ian came over to see me in Ireland," Tempest said, "Then whilst we were there, John Norum called from LA, and we were like 'Yes, maybe now is the right time to get things started again'."<sup>[15]</sup> For the 2000 millennium celebrations, Europe was asked to do a concert in Stockholm on New Year's Eve 1999. That would be Europe's first, and to date only, concert with both of their lead guitarists, since both John Norum and Kee Marcello had accepted the offer to play that evening with the rest of the group. They played "Rock the Night" and "The Final Countdown".<sup>[15][16]</sup>



John Norum

Over the years, there were several reunion rumors, and on October 2, 2003 it was made official: Europe announced plans for a new album and world tour.<sup>[17]</sup> The band then switched back to the *Final Countdown* line-up, with John Norum as the only lead guitarist.<sup>[15]</sup> "There was no doubt that we wanted John back, and John wanted to get back," Tempest said, "For me it was important to get that spark going again that we had before."<sup>[5]</sup> Kee Marcello claimed that he was too busy with his own projects. "I told them I didn't want to participate in a [new] studio album because musically, I want to go in a different kind of direction than the music Europe stands for," Marcello said, "Then we talked for a while about doing a six-piece tour – it didn't turn out that way because of different reasons."<sup>[16]</sup>

The songwriting for a new album, *Start from the Dark*, began early in 2003.<sup>[15]</sup> "It was just a matter of moving forward and writing songs for the new album," Tempest said, "That was always our intention. We thought that if we were gonna make a comeback, we wanted to do it properly, and that meant we wanted to write and record some new songs, a new album."<sup>[15]</sup> For the recording of *Start from the Dark*, the band decided to work with producer Kevin Elson, who had also produced *The Final Countdown*.<sup>[15]</sup> "We could either go with a younger producer, or we could go with someone that we knew, someone experienced who is on the same wavelength as the band," Tempest said, "So in the end we decided that Kevin would be the perfect choice."<sup>[15]</sup>

In the summer of 2004 Europe went on a festival tour through the European continent.<sup>[15]</sup> The concert setlists included the old hits, but also introduced the title track from *Start from the Dark*.<sup>[15]</sup> The album was released on September 22, 2004, the same day that John Norum became a father. *Start from the Dark* featured a more modern sound compared to Europe's previous albums. "We wanted to be doing something at least that was a little bit relevant now; bit of a dry mix, detuned a bit," Tempest said, "So we felt like we didn't want to do an 1980s album per se, we just wanted to start like a fresh band really."<sup>[18]</sup> Eventually, the album sold in excess of 600,000 copies worldwide.<sup>[5]</sup>

Europe released its seventh album, *Secret Society* on October 26, 2006. "We think it's one of the strongest albums that Europe has ever done," Tempest said, "There is definitely some more melodic stuff on this one. *Start from the Dark* was very raw and made a statement, which is cool but for us it felt like a debut album in a way, so we wanted to branch out a bit on this one and take it to new levels."<sup>[5]</sup>

On January 26, 2008 Europe did a semi-acoustic live concert at Nalen in Stockholm, calling the event *Almost Unplugged*. The band was accompanied by a string quartet and played reworked versions of its own songs, as well as cover versions of songs by bands that have influenced Europe's sound throughout the years – [Pink Floyd](#), [UFO](#), [Led Zeppelin](#) and [Thin Lizzy](#). The show was broadcast live over the Internet on Europe's official website.<sup>[19]</sup> It was released on CD on September 17, 2008<sup>[20]</sup> and on DVD on August 19, 2009.

On July 23, 2008 Europe did a co-headlining concert with [Whitesnake](#) in [Padua, Italy](#). During Whitesnake's performance of their encore "[Still of the Night](#)", Joey Tempest joined [David Coverdale](#) on stage for the last chorus.<sup>[21]</sup> In August 2008 Europe was the opening act for [Deep Purple](#) for two concerts in Sweden, in [Linköping](#) on August 8 and [Ystad](#) on August 9.<sup>[22]</sup> John Norum joined Deep Purple on stage in Ystad for a performance of "[Smoke on the Water](#)".<sup>[23]</sup>

On July 21, 2009, bassist and former member of Force, Marcel Jacob, committed suicide. He was 45 years old.<sup>[24]</sup>



Europe performing in Festivalna hall, Sofia in 2012.

Europe's eighth studio album, *Last Look at Eden*, was released on September 9, 2009.<sup>[25]</sup> The [title track](#) was released as a single in June.<sup>[26]</sup> The band has described it as a modern retro rock album.<sup>[27]</sup> "This time, we're taking some new directions with our songs, and we're exploring different styles," they stated, "There is a definite classic rock vibe on some of the tracks... a tip of the hat to groovin', funkin' 1970s rock songs - but ones we have bought into the here and now."<sup>[28]</sup> The second single, "[New Love in Town](#)", was released as a digital download on September 3, 2009.<sup>[29]</sup>

In an interview with Abhijeet Ahluwalia for EspyRock on November 30, 2009, Joey Tempest outlined the future of Europe, announcing the follow-up to *Last Look at Eden* will come in 2011:<sup>[30]</sup> "We're gonna keep working at this rate we're working at, which is pretty good. We'll probably come out with an album in 2011 and tour in 2012 again. We're looking 2-3 years ahead all the time, and in the next

5 years I see Europe with 2 more albums, 2 more world tours and hopefully having established ourselves even better in a lot of territories around the world."<sup>[30]</sup>

On August 6, 2011, Europe headlined the closing ceremonies of the [22nd World Scout Jamboree](#) in [Rinkaby](#), Sweden before an audience of 40,061 Scouts and Guides which included King [Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden](#) and Queen [Silvia of Sweden](#).<sup>[31]</sup>

On July 12, 2011, Europe confirmed that [Kevin Shirley](#) would produce their ninth studio album. The recording sessions started on October 3, 2011.<sup>[32][33]</sup> On January 24, 2012 the band announced the album title, [Bag of Bones](#).<sup>[34][35]</sup> The album was released on April 18, 2012 in Japan by [Victor Entertainment](#)<sup>[36]</sup> and on April 25 in Sweden by Gain Music Entertainment.<sup>[37]</sup> "Bag of Bones" debuted at number 2 on the Swedish album chart on May 4, 2012[12] and was certified Gold in Sweden on July 12, 2012.[12]

The band played at the [Sweden Rock Festival](#) in 2013, with their performance recorded for a 30th anniversary double CD, DVD and [blu-ray disc](#), which was released in October 2013.<sup>[38][39][40]</sup>

## Band members

### Current members

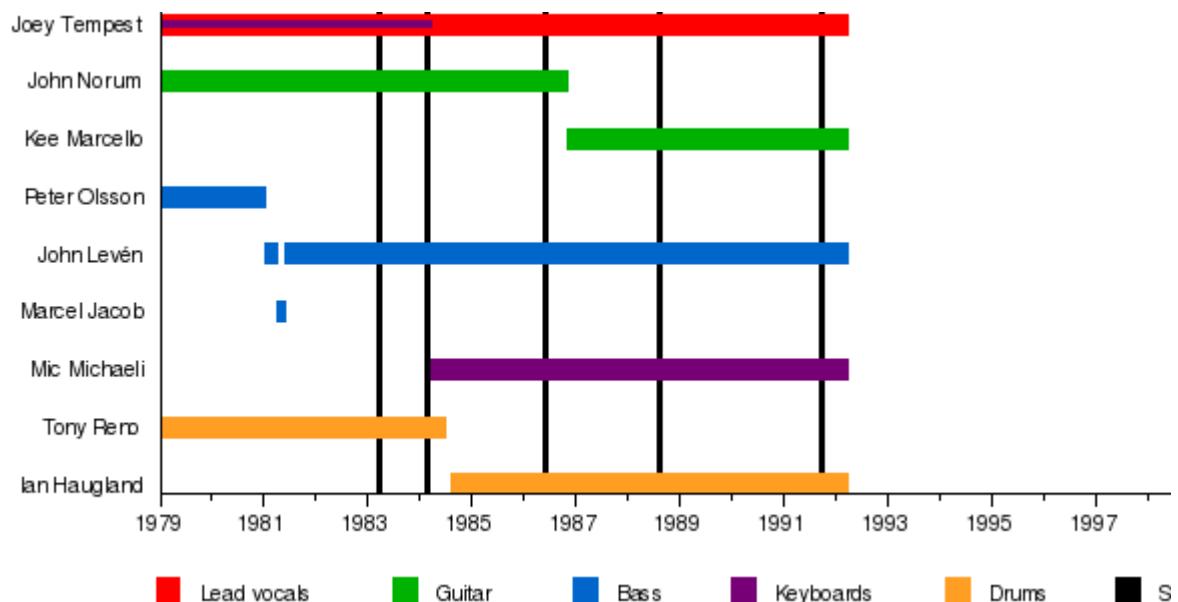
- [John Norum](#) - lead & rhythm guitars, backing vocals (1979–1986, 1999, 2003–present)
- [Joey Tempest](#) - lead vocals, acoustic & rhythm guitar<sup>1</sup>, keyboards<sup>2</sup> (1979–1992, 1999, 2003–present)
- [John Levén](#) - bass, backing vocals (1981, 1981–1992, 1999, 2003–present)
- [Mic Michaeli](#) - keyboards, backing vocals, rhythm guitar<sup>3</sup> (1984–1992, 1999, 2003–present)
- [Ian Haugland](#) - drums, percussion, backing vocals (1984–1992, 1999, 2003–present)

### Former members

- [Tony Reno](#) - drums, percussion (1979–1984)
- [Peter Olsson](#) - bass (1979–1981)
- [Marcel Jacob](#) - bass (1981; died 2009)
- [Kee Marcello](#) - lead & rhythm guitars, backing vocals (1986–1992, 1999)

<sup>1</sup>Live <sup>2</sup>Until 1984 <sup>3</sup>Live during the *Prisoners in Paradise Tour* 1991-92 & during "Bag of Bones Tour" 2013

## Timeline



## Discography

Main article: [Europe discography](#)

Year	Title	Label
1983	<a href="#">Europe</a>	
1984	<a href="#">Wings of Tomorrow</a>	Hot Records
1986	<a href="#">The Final Countdown</a>	
1988	<a href="#">Out of This World</a>	Epic Records
1991	<a href="#">Prisoners in Paradise</a>	
2004	<a href="#">Start from the Dark</a>	Sanctuary Records
2006	<a href="#">Secret Society</a>	
2009	<a href="#">Last Look at Eden</a>	earMUSIC
2012	<a href="#">Bag of Bones</a>	

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SOURCE: Wikipedia