

## CYMANDE

### MUSIC IS THE MESSAGE AND THE MESSAGE IS MUSIC

BIO 2019

*"Bra..... Hip Hop's most famous bass line"* **CUT CHEMIST**

*"London's greatest funk band"* **ROLLING STONE**

*"French Rap exists because of Cymande"* **MC SOLAAR**

*"One of my all-time favourite funk bands..... sounded beautiful"* **ROB DA BANK: Bestival, Camp Bestival**

*"Best Reunion"* **BONNAROO FESTIVAL 2016, NASHVILLE**

**CYMANDE**, the British-based music pioneers, emerged as innovators of the funk music scene during the early 1970s, the band combined reggae and Rastafarian rhythms with funk, soul, R&B, jazz to create a new and exciting sound which captivated audiences throughout the United States, United Kingdom, and Europe.

Cymande released their debut album simply called "Cymande" in the USA in 1973, and it became an immediate success. From that album, the group released two singles "The Message" which was listed as no. 20 on the U.S. pop charts followed by "Bra" which later became a massive favourite among the Hip-Hop community with tracks being sampled by artists including: **De La Soul, MC Solaar, and The Fugees.** The tracks "Bra" and "Dove" were included in the music soundtrack two **Spike Lee's** motion pictures: "Crooklyn" and "25th Hour".

The Group toured America with R&B soul music superstars including: **Al Green, Billy Preston, Patti La Belle, Ramsey Lewis, Edwin Starr, Jerry Butler, Albert King and Mandrill.** They also toured the **UK and Europe** with artists including **Kool and the Gang, KC and the Sunshine Band, Bohannon,** in 1973 *Cymande became the first British-based band to perform at the World-renowned Apollo Theater in Harlem, New York.*

The band stopped performing in 1975 but reunited and returned in 2015 with a new album entitled "**Simple Act of Faith**" on **Cherry Red Records.** During the absence, Cymande's legacy was sustained by the popularity of its music in the Rare Groove and Hip-Hop genres. Following the release of the album the band returned to touring, and in June 2016 embarked on a tour of the United States appearing at some high-profile sell-out shows in Los Angeles (Fonda Theatre), San Francisco, New York: (Central Park Festival- Brooklyn Bowl); Washington (Hamilton Theatre) and Nashville (Bonnaroo Festival). The band has continued to tour throughout 2017 and 2018 with performances at London's prestigious Barbican, Roundhouse and Forum concert venues as well as the prestigious Ronnie Scott's club. The band has also undertaken concert tours of South America and Europe appearing in concerts at: Nublu Jazz Festival in Brazil, Secret Solstice Festival in Iceland, Dimensions Festival in Croatia, Chill-Out Festival in Istanbul, Southern Soul Festival in Montenegro, Le Bataclan and Le Trianon in Paris, Les Fiesta des Suds in Marseilles and "Like a Jazz Machine Festival" in Luxembourg as well as "Brockwell Park", "Mostly Jazz" and "Innervisions" festivals in the UK.

In 2019 the band has continued its festival performances with stunning appearances at Red Bull, Pori, Larmer Tree, Ealing Festivals and Womad Festivals.

The band is currently engaged in the pre-production for the recording of a new album tracks in Autumn 2019 and completion of a film/documentary about its formation, history and musical

achievements, which is currently in post-production.

Website: [www.cymandeofficial.com](http://www.cymandeofficial.com)