

Meat Loaf & Steinman - From "Bat Out Of Hell" to musicals in Scandinavia (by J. Granström)



Meat Loaf & Jim Steinman



Bat Out Of Hell album (1977) and musical (2017)

On January 20, legendary rock singer Meat Loaf passed away. A week after his death, Meat Loaf's 1977 debut album "Bat Out Of Hell" - one of the five best-selling albums of all time - topped the album charts in Ireland and Australia, and reached its highest ever chart positions in the U.K. at #3 and the U.S. at #13. All the songs on the album were written by Jim Steinman, who passed away on April 19 2021. Meat Loaf and Steinman both started their careers in theater, and met when Meat Loaf auditioned for Steinman's musical "More Than You Deserve" in New York in 1973. Spin Magazine called that meeting "One of the Top 10 most important moments in the history of rock n' roll". Nearly every record label rejected "Bat Out Of Hell" but it went on to sell an incredible 43 million copies, staying in the Top 100 UK Album chart for an astonishing 522 weeks and continued to sell 200.000+ copies yearly even before Meat Loaf's death. 40 years after "Bat Out Of Hell" was released, a musical version premiered in Manchester in 2017 and is currently touring different parts of the United Kingdom until November. After going separate ways in the early 1980's, Meat Loaf and Steinman re-united for the sequel "Bat Out Of Hell 2" released in 1993. The album became Meat Loaf's first (and only) #1 in the U.S., and spawned the monster hit "I'd Do Anything For Love (But I Won't Do That)" which reached #1 in 28 countries.

However, prior to re-uniting with MeatLoaf, Steinman wrote and produced many hit songs in the early and mid 1980's. He is the only individual to have written and produced songs that were #1 and #2 simultaneously on Billboard's Hot 100. For four weeks in 1983, Bonnie Tyler's "Total Eclipse Of The Heart" held the #1 spot, keeping Air Supply's "Making Love Out Of Nothing At All" from the peak position. In 1984, Barbra Streisand recorded Steinman's "Left In The Dark", which was translated into Swedish and recorded by Cecilia Vennersten for her self-titled debut solo album in 1995. The Swedish version, "Lämnad i mörkret", had translated lyrics by Nanne Grönvall, who is part of the trio "One More Time" with Maria Rådsten and ABBA-Benny's son Peter Grönvall. Cecilia's album included the Melodifestivalen entry "Det vackraste", which ended up in second place. The song was written by "One More Time", which won Melodifestivalen and competed in the Eurovision Song Contest with "Den vilda" in 1996. Nanne also competed as a solo artist in Melodifestivalen in 1998, 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2020.

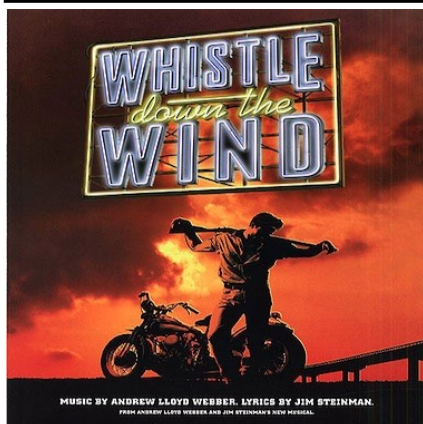


Vennersten's debut



Nanne Grönvall

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Lloyd Webber musical



Steen Elm Sørensen at the Danish production of "Vampires"



Following the success of "Bat Out Of Hell 2", Steinman started a successful career as an international musical theater writer. He wrote the lyrics to Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Whistle Down The Wind" which ran in London's West End 1998-2001 and also toured the United States 2007-2008. Steinman also wrote the music for "Dance Of The Vampires", which has been seen by over 10 million people in a dozen European countries - where it is considered one of the most successful musicals of all time - as well as four cities in Japan. The show features new versions of "Total Eclipse Of The Heart", Meat Loaf's "Objects In The Rearview Mirror (May Appear Closer Than They Are)" and Fire Inc.'s "Tonight Is What It Means To Be Young" from the 1984 cult movie "Streets Of Fire". In 2020, the musical received its Scandinavian premiere at Det Ny Teater in Copenhagen. Attending the premiere was Steen Elm Sørensen, who had previously seen the show in 11 countries and created the first Jim Steinman website "Neverland Hotel". Sørensen was very pleased with the production, which he thought held up well against the previous ones he had seen. Steinman also wrote some of the music for "Garbo The Musical", which was staged in Stockholm in the autumn of 2002 and followed Greta Garbo's journey from a young girl in Sweden to international fame. The musical was originally written in English, with Swedish translations by Py Bäckman whose writing credits include lyrics to Nordman's "Vandraren" and Helen Sjöholm's "Gabriellas sång" (from the Oscar nominated movie "Så som i himmelen") as well as music and lyrics for Tommy Körberg's "Stad i ljus". Finally, Steinman wrote the book, music and lyrics for the aforementioned "Bat Out Of Hell The Musical", which premiered in Manchester in 2017 before successful runs in London, Toronto, New York and Oberhausen, Germany. The musical includes songs from Meat Loaf's "Bat Out of Hell" albums, as well as "Making Love Out of Nothing At All" and Celine Dion's "It's All Coming Back To Me Now". From "Bat Out Of Hell" to musicals about Greta Garbo and Vampires in Sweden and Denmark, the works of Meat Loaf and Steinman have left a lasting legacy on rock n' roll and musical theater around the world. Listen to some songs from Steinman's Scandinavian musicals here: [Garbo The Musical: www.youtube.com/watch?v=q2JtPRjhNwU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q2JtPRjhNwU) [Vampires: www.youtube.com/watch?v=xR05uudTra8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xR05uudTra8) and www.youtube.com/watch?v=P80tMiDhXIs



Garbo (Sweden)



Py Bäckman