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Photo by Jens  
Nordström.

# ABU NEIN

## Roll Call

Dennis Lood : engineering and synthesizers  
Anders Nordensson : electric bass and synthesizers  
Erica Li Lundqvist : vocals, lyrics, and synthesizers

## Additional personnel/studio and live musicians :

Jacob Lind : guitars  
Andreas Catjar : synthesizers, electric bass and guitars,  
also member of Covenant (SE) and Souls (SE)

### When did the band form and what was the original intention of the band?

ABU NEIN : The band is in its infancy (celebrating one-year anniversary in September 2020) but we as members are getting old. So, since our inevitable death is soon upon us, we wanted a taste of that fame and glory, as soon as possible.

### About your name: how does it communicate the sound or vibe of the band?

AN : Just try to say ABU NEIN out loud three times and you will catch the vibe. Or maybe you will vaporize into thin air.

### How would you describe your music to someone who has not yet heard you?

Erica : It depends on who's asking. If I were to describe our music to my deaf grandmother, I would ask her to close her eyes and then put her hand on my chest and let her feel my heartbeat. To our average listener, we would probably describe it as eclectic beat-driven music that explores the borders between mini and maximalism.

### What inspires you to create this style of music?

AN : Creativity does not come easy. It comes to us as a distant cry, an insightful phrase or a strong beat. But most often it is just a sense of something you can't fully grasp until it is completed. We all have very different ways of creating and have different inputs which creates dissonance and intersections. It is never a straight path. Consensus does not make art.

### What influences in fashion, literature, and culture impact your creativity?

AN : Versace's S&M collection from 1992 and old ceremonial robes quite nicely catches our taste in fashion. When it comes to literature and culture, we look for inspiration in old grimoires and esoteric writings from William Butler Yeats and the works of Amodali to name a few.

### What other bands are inspiring you right now?

Anders : Right now I am very inspired by the Swedish band VED (vedsound.bandcamp.com). Me and Erica went to a coronavirus adapted concert with them a few weeks ago. It really is one of the most interesting local bands we have here in Malmö.

E : I am very inspired by new bands with female vocalists, like the Belgian band Whispering Sons, American duo Boy Harsher, Greek duo Paradox Obscure and Sweden's Anna von Hausswolff. But the list is long.

Dennis : I currently listen to a lot of ambient music like Brian Eno. It is also the perfect lullaby for my children. When it comes to inspirations I mostly listen to old body and synth from the early 80s, new releases of old stuff that labels like Minimal Wave and Dark Entries put out. I like that minimal raw tape sound.

### How would you describe the current alternative music scene where you live?

AN : We live in a small town in the south of Sweden called Malmö. Although it is the third biggest city in Sweden it is always overshadowed by Gothenburg and Stockholm. We always have to work a bit harder to get our work out there and we do it by helping each other. The music scene here is very interconnected where more established artists help up and coming alternative artists. Malmö is really a DIY city.

As we mentioned, Malmö's independent artists are creative, and this pandemic has proven that. Plan B is the essence of that DIY grassroots activism here in Malmö and they are now one of Malmö's biggest independent music venues. During the hardest weeks of lockdown in April, when all of Europe endured lockdown, Plan B continued to put on shows and have continued to do so, fully following the governmental guidelines that allows gatherings of 50 people or fewer. As you probably know, there's no hardline lockdown in Sweden as there is in other European countries. This might open up for some cultural activities, but the cultural and performance art scene is on its knees, bleeding. Bars and restaurants are still open and can have as many people as they want as long as they can provide

table service and seating with at least 3.28 ft between tables and where social distancing must be followed.

But here comes the tricky part and this is what has upset the music scene. I'll give you an example. Say that a restaurant can harbor 200 people and they put on a music quiz every Friday night with 200 seated people. The quizmaster is playing music and speaking on a microphone from a stage. All is fine and dandy. Well, if you put a guitar in her hand and she would sing the songs instead of playing them from a laptop, 150 people would have to leave the venue, because now it is a concert. This has upset the industry that has put a lot of pressure on our government to take action and create guidelines that people can understand and that correlates with other similar activities. It really is a thorn in our side when we see 500 people at a crowded beach, and we want to see common guidelines in this respect.

### What are your favorite tour or stage stories? Share 'em here.

AN : Well, we only had time to do three shows before the plague broke out. Our first show we did as a support act for the Swedish electronic duo KITE in December 2019. The second show was a week after where we supported our friends in True Moon and the third show we did in February 2020 supporting The Legendary Pink Dots. All shows were in different venues in Malmö. That is as far as we got before everything closed down. The fourth gig we did was a live stream during lockdown in our library at home but with 14,000 plus viewers. It was kind of a shock when we realized we have had such a huge crowd watching us at home.

### Tell us about your latest release.

AN : *Secular Psalms* that is to be released on vinyl on Young & Cold Records/ Rundgång Rekords 13th of November is a homage to the occult, and a testimony of the transience of life. The knowledge that "all things will end" is kind of life-affirming and brings hope for the future. The album is a reminder of the duality in which we comprehend the world and perhaps *Secular Psalms* can inspire us to think beyond that duality.

### What's next for your band?

AN : We await our debut release and continue to make music meanwhile. Maybe get a taste of that fame? We do have some streaming events ahead but by the time of 22nd of November we hope that guidelines have changed so that we can put on live shows for more than a 50 people-audience and maybe also do gigs in Stockholm and other big cities in Sweden. But what we learned from this whole experience is that you can't anticipate anything. We have to wait and see and be creative with what is. On the positive side, people seem to be buying more records now since live music is scarce, and they have more time to listen to music at home. For that reason, we believe it's a good time to release an album.

### Where can people find out more about your band and any other projects members are involved in?

You can follow ABU NEIN on:  
Facebook: [facebook.com/ABU-NEIN-113691376740942](https://facebook.com/ABU-NEIN-113691376740942)  
Bandcamp: [abuncin.bandcamp.com/releases](https://abuncin.bandcamp.com/releases)  
Youtube: [youtube.com/watch?v=zBoZYWdrKE](https://youtube.com/watch?v=zBoZYWdrKE)

Here you can also find links to Erica's and Andreas' former bands Lovac and Down in June on Spotify.

Dennis is also the owner of Rundgång Rekords, a record store and label:  
[rundgng.bandcamp.com](https://rundgng.bandcamp.com)  
[discogs.com/seller/Rundgngrekords/profile](https://discogs.com/seller/Rundgngrekords/profile)

Andreas Catjar's is also member of Covenant and Souls:  
[covenant.se](https://covenant.se)  
[discogs.com/artist/261259-Souls](https://discogs.com/artist/261259-Souls)