



Bio information: **NEBELNEST**

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NeBeLNeST were one of the most adventurous and energetic young bands to emerge on the international post-rock / avant-progressive scene in the late 90s. The young French quartet was noted for its dark symphonic rock music influenced by **King Crimson**, **Shylock** and **Univers Zero/Present**, laced with psychedelia and improvisation, and played with a riveting level of energy and intensity derived from the hardcore and noise scenes.

Following the departure of founding guitarist Cyril Malderez in 2003, the band enters a turbulent period. Sébastien Carmona steps in for several live performances and countless rehearsals, helping bring to completion, through much struggle, the group's third album, **ZePTO**. This chaotic phase eventually leads to Sébastien's departure, and he is swiftly replaced by Mathieu Sassier, ensuring that the band can honor its live commitments for 2007.

With strong support from Cuneiform Records, **NeBeLNeST** is invited to perform at the prestigious NEARFest International Festival in the United States, sharing the stage with legendary acts such as Hawkwind and Magma. Yet, as has often been the case for **NeBeLNeST**, nothing comes easily. Mathieu initially declines the U.S. invitation, his academic commitments take priority. The band then turns to Julien Wack, a guitarist/saxophonist long connected to the **NeBeLNeST** circle, to fill the position.

Rehearsals for the live dates begin in quintet form, and it is ultimately as a five-piece that **NeBeLNeST** goes on to perform three landmark shows in its history:

- **The Rock in Opposition Festival** in Carmaux, France
- **NEARFest** in the United States
- **The Saalfelden Jazz Festival** in Austria

The Rock in Opposition performance remains a bitter memory. Since the band stood firm in refusing to give up the recording rights, no festival sound engineers stepped in to assist with the mix. That lack of technical support and the quiet tension it created inevitably left its mark on the show, resulting in a performance that fell short of expectations.

But this setback acts as a wake-up call. Intense rehearsals follow, and **NeBeLNeST** departs for the U.S. more determined than ever, eight years after their first American tour built around ProgDay 1999. At NEARFest, they hit it off quickly with the members of Magma and enjoy time with old friends of Orion Studios (Baltimore). Despite recurring technical issues throughout the festival, the performance becomes one of the band's finest memories.

Olivier also had the great pleasure of performing with our friends from 5uu's, Bob Drake and Dave Kerman. He literally arrived on stage just three seconds before the start of the set, delayed by Nebelnest's autograph session with the fans, he had completely lost track of time! This last-minute, improvisational vibe perfectly matched the spirit of the show, with Dave Kerman arriving on stage in pajamas, a bathrobe, and a shower cap, complete with a pillow he placed on the drums, ready to snooze through the set in perfect drummer style.



They also had the pleasure of meeting Gary Green, the legendary guitarist of Gentle Giant. To top it all off, during the festival's unforgettable closing night, Michael crossed paths with one of his childhood idols, Jello Biafra, who had come to catch one of his favorite bands, Magma. What a rush !

Upon returning from the U.S., the band receives an invitation to perform at the Saalfelden Jazz Festival in Austria, along with a fee higher than they had ever received before. Ironically, this success forces NeBeLNeST to file an official tax declaration in France, a first for a band that had never earned profits; in fact, the band members had personally funded 15 years of rehearsal space in Paris. This tax story would continue to haunt the band long after its dissolution...

By the end of the summer of 2007, the quintet's lineup is firmly established. With their own sound engineer on board, the difference is unmistakable.

Presented here is an excerpt from that performance, which marked NeBeLNeST's final live appearance. Shortly after returning from Austria, the band enters the studio to begin work on a fourth album. The process lasts four years... until NeBeLNeST quietly disappears, leaving no trace, LoST in its own labyrinth of sound.

But that is another story...