



Biography

Rack started when bassist **Oliver Sampson** and drummer **Yann Zimmermann** wanted to launch a new band when their previous band, **woodLawn** placed themselves on hold. The concept was clear: a melodic, heavy, groovy band that would make music that people seemed to have forgotten about. "We had a name, a practice room, a concept, and a goal. All we needed was to find some musicians!" laughs Oliver. "We wanted a name that was short, hard, and the same in both English and German. It had to be short, so when we printed it on flyers, it could be read from far away; it had to be hard, because we're not making music for your grandmother; and the reason that it should be the same in both English and German should be obvious to any Rock musician in Germany."

The band came into contact with singer **Ralf Lerner**, who was also looking for new musical avenues to explore after leaving **Candid Groove**. "When he walked in and sang on the material we had recorded, we were just blown away. Singers that have their own sound and can actually sing don't just fall off of trees you know. We knew within the first five minutes that he was a keeper." says Yann.

The band took off like a rocket in early 2005, but after some personnel changes, it was clear that a new focus was needed. "We needed a bigger sound, we needed something only keyboards could give us. We looked and we found **Fabian Mroz** on the Internet, and he was exactly the right fit. He's super creative, and just as important, he fits into the band. We knew we had to find the chemistry as much as we had to find the sound." Fabian had just moved to the area from Northern Germany, and wanted to start making music right away, "I got the email, and I heard the songs, and I knew I wanted to be a part of this outfit."

A little more time passed, and guitarist **Michael Schürbrock**, another transplant from Northern Germany, found the band via a guitarist-wanted ad. He showed up, and the chemistry was perfect again. "He fit in like he had been there all the time. Thank God he can play!" laughs Oliver. Michael's strong progressive and melodic influences complete the band's sound.

Rack practices in Yann's recording studio near Bad Waldsee. "We have the ability to record everything, so we can capture every musical idea as we're writing and arranging. We can even put ideas on hold and go back and review old ideas. The studio is like the band's sixth member in the creative process," explains Yann.

The band got a huge kick in awareness when Ralf was chosen to be Mr. Charisma 2006 in Lindau, an Event supported by the Schwäebische Zeitung. "Not only can he sing, but he's good looking, and looks great for the cameras, and he shows up regularly in the newspaper. We're all very happy to have Ralf's good looks in the band." kids Fabian.

Rack is currently filling the calendar for the end of 2006 and the beginning of 2007. "We want to play, but right now we have to turn down some gigs so we can concentrate on writing and recording. Spring 2007 is going to be when we pull out all of the stops. Watch out Germany!" says Ralf about the band's strategy to pull together the best music with the best live show. "We're musicians; we're entertainers; this is what we live to do and do to live."