

# A SILENT EXPRESS



A Silent Express is a Dutch pop band that draws its inspiration from groups such as Duran Duran and Simple Minds. The band is comprised of frontman Rik Annema (singer/guitarist), Sanne Meems (drums) and the brothers Dirk Sander Kooistra (bass) and Henk Jan Kooistra (keyboard). They have been working on their music full-time since 2008 in a remote shed in the north of Holland.

In addition to writing songs, they also toured the Netherlands extensively in a converted old ambulance. They have played everywhere, from the Melkweg in Amsterdam to 013 in Tilburg, and from the 3FM studios to the Noorderslag Festival in Groningen. A Silent Express is all about going the distance, be out on the road, on stage or in the studio. It seemed to be just a matter of time before they would get noticed, and in the autumn of 2009, that proved to be the case.

Dutch top producer, Holger Schwedt, invited the band to stay at his studio in Amsterdam at weekends. This quickly proved to be a match made in heaven, as in March 2010, they attracted the interest of record label 8ball Music (Alain Clark, Miss Montreal, Bertolf). Less than a month later, they were toasting the signing of a recording contract with this young, independent label. This is a giant leap forward in the band's quest to achieve both national and international success.

The first single by ASE is titled "Will I Be Around" and became a huge hit in Holland. The video for this single was directed by the New York/Amsterdam-based photographer and director Stephanie Pistel (Duran Duran, The Black Eyed Peas, DJ Tiësto, Robbie Williams) and was picked up by the big clip channels like MTV and TMF. She is also responsible for the fantastic photography of the group.

The second single 'I Never Saw This Coming' proved ASE to be more than a one-hit wonder. Because again it became a big radiohit. Also the third track 'I Can't Say, I Wasn't Afraid', their recent single, is doing incredibly well.

The debut album by A Silent Express came out in Holland in November of 2010.

ASE signed a contract with SPV, a big German rocklabel, in February 2011. They are going to conquer Germany from now on, starting in Hamburg on the 12th of may. In Holland they'll play the big summerfestivals.

