

Foreigner was formed in 1976 by English rocker Mick Jones, with Dennis Elliott, Ian McDonald and American musicians Lou Gramm, Al Greenwood and Ed Gagliardi. The debut album, 'Foreigner', followed quickly in 1977, producing the hits 'Feels Like The First Time', 'Cold As Ice' and 'Long, Long Way From Home', all hits that continue to receive so much frequent airplay that Foreigner remains firmly in the Classic Rock Radio Top 20 some 30 years later.

The band's name originated from the fact that the group was of mixed nationalities. 'Double Vision' was even more of a hit than their 1977 debut and 'Head Games' followed closely behind in 1979. 'Head Games' saw a change of lineup, as bassist Gagliardi was replaced by Rick Wills. Shortly following in 1980, Greenwood and McDonald also left the band, and the band became a quartet. The next album, '4', was an even bigger hit than the first three and contained the hit singles 'Urgent', 'Juke Box Hero' and 'Waiting For A Girl Like You'. It featured Thomas Dolby playing the synthesizers and a classic saxophone solo on 'Urgent' from the late great Junior Walker.

For the 1981 tour, the band recruited Bob Mayo (of Peter Frampton fame) and Mark Rivera on keyboards, guitar, synthesizers, backing vocals, saxophone and flute to interweave throughout the songs. 1984 was a year in which the 80's sound was reaching its zenith and Foreigner was right there

with its fifth release, 'Agent Provocateur', which gave the band a worldwide No. 1 hit with 'I Want To Know What Love Is'. Three years later, 'Inside Information' was released spawning two more top five hits, 'Say You Will' and 'I Don't Want To Live Without You'.

After putting forth a solo effort in the late 1980's, Gramm made the decision to leave the band to concentrate on a solo career in 1990, and Jones brought in a new lead vocalist, Johnny Edwards, for the 'Unusual Heat' album. However, in 1992, Gramm rejoined Foreigner, not long after drummer Dennis Elliott and bass player Rick Wills left the band (and since then several drummers have come and gone). It was after Gramm rejoined the band that the group released 'The Very Best Of...And Beyond', which included not only popular past hits but three new songs. Three years later, the band released 'Mr. Moonlight', which unfortunately did not fare as well as previous albums. Then, in 1997, Gramm suffered physical problems, a surgery to remove a brain tumor and medications that affected his singing voice. "I tried, (says Mick) with his long time friend, bass player Bruce Turgon, to provide friendship and support through those difficult times; unfortunately it wasn't enough to sustain our relationship".

2002's performance on 'Night of the Proms' in the Netherlands was the last time that Gramm and Jones would perform together, with Lou returning to the US to form his own Christian oriented 'Lou Gramm Band' with two of his brothers. After a two year

hiatus, Jones, at that point the only original member left in Foreigner, began searching for a new lineup in 2004. The new group consisted of former members Jeff Jacobs and Tom Gimbel with new faces Jeff Pilson, Jason Bonham and Chaz West, who was replaced by Kelly Hansen shortly afterward. In 2005, Foreigner released 'Extended Versions' with the latest lineup and featuring the classic hits live in concert. A greatest hits release in 2008 was entitled 'No End In Sight: The Very Best Of Foreigner', which included a new track 'Too Late', the first new song since the release of 'Mr. Moonlight'.

The latest album to hit the music shelves was 'Can't Slow Down'. The album entered the Billboard chart in the Top 30 in October 2009 and had great success on radio with two Top 20 singles. In 2010, the band co-headlined in the US with Styx on the United In Rock tour and continued with an impressive run of headline shows across Europe. 'Can't Slow Down' has gone on to sell substantially and has fared better than albums released in the same period by most of Foreigner's classic rock peers. Foreigner will tour the UK with Journey in the Summer of 2011 and then on to Europe to co-headline a number of large outdoor festivals with them. Live Nation took the unusual step of putting tickets on sale in November 2010. Sales exceeded all expectations and most shows will be sold out prior to Christmas of 2010.

As of this date, Foreigner consists of Mick Jones, singer Kelly Hansen, rhythm guitarist Tom Gimbel, bassist Jeff Pilson, keyboardist Michael Bluestein and

Jason Sutter on drums. Hansen, the lead singer, has been quoted as saying, "The best part about being in this band is getting the chance to do something I feel I was meant to do...what happens on stage with this group of guys is something that is rare and palpable. It's like the old saying, 'if I have to describe it, you wouldn't understand.'" Gimbel, a multi-talented musician who plays guitar, keyboards, saxophone and flute, followed up by saying, "Foreigner just seems to keep getting better. These songs still resonate beautifully. Mick is really wailin' and Kelly is a phenomenal singer. Jason and Jeff Pilson are like a freight train. The sound is tough." Says Jones, "It's good to be back, it doesn't get much better than this, hah!".

For more information, check out the band's website, [www.foreigneronline.com](http://www.foreigneronline.com)