



## **Corlyx, a boutique band**

Since 2016, Corlyx have been enchanting their audience with their very own variation of darkwave, post-punk and gothic rock. Caitlin Stokes is the singer and songwriter, her husband Brandon Ashley is the guitarist and producer of the band, and Davide Rocco on bass and Flow Toulman on drums have also been part of the band for some time now. The band has accompanied tours by big names such as Blutengel, Twin Tribes and Unzucht, captivating audiences at many festivals. In 2025, they made their debut at the Wave Gothic Festival and M'era Luna, and in autumn they opened the main stage at Switzerland's largest gothic festival, the Schwarzer Ball in Zurich.

## **A look back at the band's history**

Travelling back to the band's origins takes us on quite a journey: the name “Corlyx” comes from a dream Caitlin had, reminiscent of the Latin name for raven, *corvus corax*, and shows that it was almost Caitlin's destiny to embark on a career in the arts.

The band's success is based on careful, almost organic growth. Each step followed on from the previous one, and along the way Caitlin collected numerous milestones that she remembers fondly. As she herself points out, there was never one decisive moment in the

history of Corlyx – rather, the band grew with its own history. The fan base expanded steadily and remains unwaveringly loyal to the group to this day. Over time, a community of remarkable harmony developed – almost like a big family. The band received support not only from their fans, but also from promoters who believed in the project and helped to make it happen.

The band's early songs can be classified as 90s industrial or dark pop. A lot has changed since then. Caitlin turned away from the original genres because she didn't feel at home in that scene and didn't like the way people behaved. But the artist found her place in the heart of gothic rock and post-punk.



## **2025 – an eventful year**

2025 was a big year for the band: Dark Malta, Wave Gothic Festival, M'era Luna, Schwarzer Ball and numerous concerts. Corlyx played to large audiences but never lost their joy in their art. Caitlin explains that this year has been fantastic. This is particularly due to the fact that Caitlin and Brandon are not only married and work together professionally, but that the Corlyx family also forms a unit in their private lives. This was necessary, because this year the couple's flat in Brighton was flooded and they had to move to Italy. The death of the singer's mother was a traumatic experience – Brandon supported Caitlin enormously during this time.

A special and memorable moment occurred during Corlyx's performance at M'era Luna, where Dylan Smith shared the stage with the band for one song. The guitarist, who had previously played with The Sisters of Mercy and Die Krupps, had met the band at a festival in the Netherlands. The guest gave this joint performance a special touch.

Another defining moment of 2025 was the release of the album *Purple Pain*, which features powerful tracks such as “The Echo” and “Death is the Beginning”, showcasing the band's wide

artistic range. The album impresses with its striking and personal artwork. It also includes songs in collaboration with Blutengel and Suzi Sabotage. Nine months after the album, Corlyx also released the single 'Ravenous' together with The Spoiled.



## **A vision**

Caitlin sees her music as a means of reaching people – not only emotionally, but also intellectually. She describes herself as a 'strange' person and emphasises that her art deliberately opposes systems: consumerism, governments, selfishness. Her central concern is freedom – the freedom of the individual as well as the safety of those who are marginalised. Her songs are intended to open up spaces where particularly marginalised voices can feel heard and protected.

Caitlin also says that she views current events with concern and that she longs for a utopia in which people no longer have to constantly fight each other or choose between two evils. Her wish would be for all people to have access to medical care and sufficient food. Equally, Caitlin hopes that everyone will try to do their best.

The singer is particularly critical of algorithms that restrict us and prevent us from doing our best. At the same time, it is important to note that social media, for example, makes it easy to get in touch with others – which can also be a good thing. However, according to Caitlin, we now need to weaken the forces that want to divide our world: 'Actually, I really like it when people have a fighting spirit and go out and demonstrate, when they don't just give up. I write

a lot about current developments, but I mostly use analogies because I want my audience to interpret the music for themselves. I'm not a fighter myself, but I am the light and love that I want to see in the world. I consider it my destiny.'

However, Caitlin clearly opposes any form of categorisation. Since language is constantly changing, labels are something that only restrict. The only thing that matters are the fundamental rights that every human being should have. These values all come together in Corlyx's art.

### **Corlyx's understanding of art**

'When I create a song, I create frequencies. If you understand anything about frequencies, you know that they last forever.' Caitlin sees music as universal. Art is therefore timeless and can exist in different realities. Caitlin explains that the songs have always existed within her and just need to be found.

If music lacks soul, the result is music written by artificial intelligence. Caitlin draws a clear line between marketing purposes and art. Copyright issues pose a huge problem when it comes to uploading music. The singer explains that artists should create something – even the process of cooking is a form of art. At the core of the definition of art is creation, and that is a skill that AI takes away from us. We need to learn to preserve it.

### **Projects**

Caitlin says she has many projects in mind. After several years in Hollywood, Caitlin decided to leave a world that she found uninspiring – instead, she is considering devoting herself to writing or sculpture. However, music remains at the centre of her work – and the visual world she creates from it. Caitlin produces the videos for her songs entirely herself, merging sound and image into a shared artistic language. She also produced a video for Lord of the Lost ("Dead End"). The two styles are different, and Caitlin notes that it is always important to be true to yourself and maintain your style, even if the stylistic influences of other bands can provide good inspiration. This was also the case, for example, with the music video for "White Wolf".





## **Viewpoints**

Caitlin is particularly active on social media, where she advocates for others and frequently writes about the goth community. She emphasises that she encounters little hatred, as the black scene in particular offers a positive environment. Social media is also important to Caitlin for staying in touch with people, especially when they live far apart: 'There are some people I've never met in real life, but I consider them my friends. When I'm at the merch stand, I really want to meet people and talk to them.'

## **Future**

Getting started in the music industry is difficult. Caitlin explains that it's hard to break into the business. Once you've embarked on this path, you realise that it's even more difficult than you originally thought. It's a constant rollercoaster ride – people often don't understand that the music industry is a huge rollercoaster. Only those who persevere will eventually reach a point where their music has established itself, even if that viral moment never happened. There's a lot of work behind it.



The band will be performing at Stella Nomine next year. Corlyx are also working on new songs. The album 'Purple Pain' was released on 14 February 2025 on the Out of Line label.

Interview and text: The.Goth.Teacher