

MINGMEN

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF ROCK AND DECIBELS

Across stages and years, the Valais-based band has carved out a unique path between rock and metal, with a female voice at the center of the storm.

MINGMEN has always stood in the in-between — where raw energy meets melody. Formed in 2001 in Sion, this Swiss band embodies both the rage of the guitar and the grace of a magnetic female voice.

A look back at a human and musical adventure unlike any other.

2002 – AT THE ORIGINS, A MEETING... AND A VOICE

The story begins like many musical adventures: a meeting — between Élodie Corrêa (aka Sway) and Yann Pitteloud (aka Yaz), who discover shared musical affinities and a common desire to create bold, personal rock. Very quickly, the lineup grows around them, and the band gives its first concert on the main stage of Expo.02 in Biel — a noteworthy baptism by fire, with the press already praising “a great moment of contemporary pop rock” carried by “a female voice at the heart of a rock ensemble.”

“When I founded MINGMEN, I knew I wanted to work with a female voice. With Sway, it was obvious.” – Yaz

The band gradually evolves toward a heavier rock sound, thanks in part to the arrival of guitarist and sonic tinkerer “G” (ex-Staff), as well as an energetic rhythm section. This shift strengthens the group’s singular identity, blending sharp riffs with subtle harmonies inspired by bands like Skunk Anansie, Evanescence, and A Perfect Circle.

Early concerts follow, including Festiv’04 in Sion and the Montreux Jazz Festival in 2005.

2006 – UNDERCONTROL, THE DISCOGRAPHIC DEBUT

In 2006, the band releases its first album, *Undercontrol*. Carefully self-produced, the album is recorded partly at Digisub Studio in Sion. The track “Numb” is mixed by David Richards of Mountain Studio (Queen, David Bowie), giving the album notable visibility in the professional world.

The press praises “a tight, powerful, effective sound,” and a voice capable of balancing softness with impact. The album is highlighted at major festivals such as Rock Oz’Arènes and Lausanne Cité.

2009 – BACK TO THE GROUND, THE ELECTRIC TRANSFORMATION

Line-up changes: “G” leaves the band, replaced on guitar by “JG,” who joins Sway and Yaz in composing the album. The rhythm section is renewed as well, first with Etienne (bass) and then Dem (drums), who joins just three weeks before entering the studio. This new team produces a second album that is grittier and more direct.

“It felt amazing to get back to real guitars, real amps,” says Yaz.

“The band unleashes its elements, full sail ahead,” notes the press.

Live, MINGMEN asserts itself at many festivals: once again at Rock Oz’Arènes, and at Caprices Festival and Long’l’Rock Festival. The band even performs in unusual conditions, such as a concert played right after a parachute jump offered as payment by the Parachuting Film Festival at the Épagny airfield.

At the end of 2010, MINGMEN parts ways with guitarist Yaz due to artistic and personal differences. He tragically passes away at age 36 on April 18, 2012, from a pulmonary embolism.

2011 – BRAZIL, THE STAGE, THE DREAM

In March 2011, MINGMEN embarks on a three-week tour in Brazil. The band plays under extreme conditions: packed clubs, suffocating heat, unreliable sound systems.

The highlight? The Palco Do Rock festival in Salvador de Bahia, where the band wins the prize for best concert.

“You had to hang on, get back on stage after sleepless nights, and give everything anyway...” – Sway.

The experience becomes a pivotal moment for the band: the road, the heat, the audience... and an assault narrowly avoided thanks to their Brazilian tour manager.

2014 – THERE’S A PLACE, SONIC MATURITY

Back in Switzerland, the third album *There’s a Place* is composed collectively by all band members and recorded live at Relief Studio, aiming to capture their stage energy. The songs blend rock, metal, folk, and blues into a deeply personal universe.

“Maybe too rock for metal fans, too metal for rock fans... we just make the music that feels like us.” – Sway

On stage, the band headlines the Rock Cave at the Montreux Jazz Festival. Recognition from the alternative scene is firmly established.

2017 – THE ACOUSTIC SHIFT WITH INTO THE NIGHT

After drummer Dem’s departure, the band explores a more intimate direction with *Into the Night*, an acoustic EP. The title track and its music video reveal a different side of the band – still emotional, despite the absence of distortion.

“Even in campfire mode, the MINGMEN sound remains unmistakable.”

After this acoustic detour, the band takes a break. Sway, JG, and Etienne pursue other projects until late 2019, when they decide to revive MINGMEN. 2020, they recruit Robin, a former student of Dem, their former drummer.

2023 – RUNNING TO THE LIGHT, LIGHT REDISCOVERED

With newfound stability, the band releases *Running to the Light*, a fifth EP of eight tracks – more melodic, more mature, yet still driven by solid riffs and emotionally raw lyrics. The band unveils the album at a concert at L'Ambassade de Sion, reconnecting with the audience and affirming a resolutely modern and organic direction.

The comeback is noted :

“Energetic tracks and a diverse mix of clearly claimed personal influences.”

2026 – TOWARD NEW HORIZONS

2025, MINGMEN heads to Sweden to record at The End Studios with Ulf Blomberg, a renowned producer in the alternative metal scene. The album *Collapse of the Concrete Faith*, scheduled for 2026, marks an ambitious new chapter in their journey.

AN UNCLASSIFIABLE IDENTITY, TRUE TO ITSELF

For twenty-five years, MINGMEN has stood apart in the Swiss rock scene and beyond. From Expo.02 to Brazilian clubs, from Montreux to underground Valais venues, MINGMEN has followed its own path – one shaped by challenges, resilience, and a quest for authentic sound, always led by Sway’s captivating voice.

Between fire, discipline, rage, and fragility, the band continues to reinvent itself without ever losing its essence.