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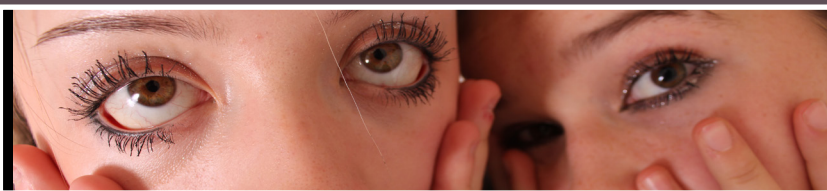
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somchai

# FROM STRINGS TO STAGE: THE YOUNG BASSIST WHO ROCKED THE WORLD

From the low hum of the bass guitar to sold-out arenas, somchai has been the hero behind some of rock's newest anthems. This is the biography of the man who helped shape a generation of young alternative rock fans with his fingers on the fretboard and heart in the rhythm.

BY D'ARCY HUTCHINS

MORE





# Somchai

## THE BEGINNING

Somchai first rose to fame at the young age of 17, playing the bass guitar in the internationally acclaimed rock band, The Helms. He is now regarded as one of the finest bass guitarists in the world, renowned not only for his exceptional musical skill but also for his incredible talent for song writing, having written some of Helm's most popular songs – including Raging

and Teenage Dreams. Throughout his teenage years, Somchai played in various bands and captured the attention of prominent artists, after delivering a stunning solo performance onstage at the Glastonbury Festival in 2015, filling in for a last-minute cancellation. This proved to be a pivotal moment in his career.

## HIS INSPIRATION

Born in Manchester, England, in 1999, Somchai was originally named Mani Blondin. He was raised in a musically inclined household, with his mother being a singer in the band Blur and his father introducing him to the bass guitar. Somchai has a younger sister, Alexiana Blondin who also is a musician; she recently released her first full album that Somchai promoted on his

social media and seems to be doing well. Just after his 20th birthday, Somchai was reported to be dating Amia Lando, a professional dancer from Belgium, other than that his relationship status seems to be unknown as he likes to keep it private.

"I probably wouldn't have made it to where I am today without Les Claypool"

## PERSONAL LIFE

During his recent tour, we had the incredible opportunity to interview Somchai. When asked about the artists who inspired him the most, he shared, "Growing up, I was always listening to Iron Maiden, but the most influential artist for me is Les Claypool. He is one of the best bassists of all time." This influence is evident in Somchai's music, particularly in his use of

tapping, flamenco-style strumming, slapping, and whammy bar bends—techniques that both he and Claypool masterfully incorporate into their work. He also highlighted the importance of having a role model, especially as a teenager, "I probably wouldn't have made it to where I am today without Les Claypool" he told us.

## THE FUTURE & HIS PLANS

Somchai still has many years ahead to create remarkable music that we eagerly await. Currently, he has mentioned in various press releases that Helm will release a new album in 2025 and plans to tour again following its launch. Additionally, there is talk of Somchai debuting his first single as a solo artist alongside his work with the band. Given the immense talent this young rock star possesses, it would be a pity not to fully explore his individual potential as well, the world is waiting to see what music he creates.





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