

# NiceLand



NiceLand got first recognition in 2007 as a one-man project when singer/song-writer Michal Motycka won the prestigious Coca-Cola Pop Star competition, which gained him a contract with Sony BMG. The subsequently released debut album *Little Black Book* was recorded with session musicians and was highly praised by critics, winning multiple local awards in the process. After a handful of live shows with hired musician, Michal has decided to find a permanent band that would be also involved in the writing process. By the end of the summer 2008 a four-piece combo consisting of guitarist Tomas Koula, bassist Premysl Cernik and drummer Michal Budinsky was born and a new era of NiceLand as a band has commenced.

Since then NiceLand toured constantly all over the Czech Republic including appearances on all of the major local festivals with additional shows in Germany and Belgium, building a fan base and preparing a follow up album. Shifting the musical style from acoustic indie pop sound of the first album towards more guitar and electronic driven as well as experimental approach, the band severed ties with the major label and signed with Championship Records.

The second album *God Has Her Ways* was produced by Amak Golden and recorded in 2010 with guest appearances of multiple well-known Czech musicians and members of Czech Philharmonic Orchestra. The band toured heavily supporting the new release, including over 20 dates with Sunshine – the only Czech band recognized internationally (releasing albums on GSL and Custard Records in US and Japan).

Due to exhaustion from being constantly on tour and other commitments, Tomas Koula and Michal Budinsky decided to quit the band and a longtime friend Michal Marhoul has joined in on drums. The band has decided to leave the permanent guitarist slot vacant, performing either as a 3-piece or with filling-in guitarist Igor Zacharov. With the recent addition of keyboardist Simon Jelinek, NiceLand have taken a break from performing live and committed themselves to writing and recording new material for the third album.

The band's music draws most heavily from Michal's versatile song-writing skills and talent for catchy melodies. The sound of NiceLand is however influenced by music from 60's until now with genre mixture ranging from indie rock, electro, ambient or new wave to pop and country. The artists NiceLand have been linked to are for example R.E.M, Radiohead, The Cure, Tegan and Sara, The Dresden Dolls, Smashing Pumpkins, PJ Harvey, Blur, Duran Duran, David Bowie, Jane's Addiction, Les Savy Fav, Fugazi, The Police, Sonic Youth, Arcade Fire, The Pixies, Hot Hot Heat or Depeche Mode.

### **NiceLand are:**

Michal Motycka – lead vocal, electric and acoustic guitars, piano, synths  
Premysl Cerník – bass guitar, double bass, synths, backing vocals  
Michal Marhoul – drums and percussions, backing vocals  
Simon Jelinek – keyboards, piano, synths, backing vocals  
Igor Zacharov – electric guitar (live)

### **Discography:**

Little Black Book, (Sony BMG CR, prod. Jaromír Yarda Helešic. 2008)  
God Has Her Ways (Championship Records, prod. Amak Golden, 2010)

### **Videography:**

Come On (director Risto Sokolovski, 2008)  
Lost In Encryption (director Bohdan Zajcenko, 2008)  
Sleep At Night (director Niko Sonnberger, 2010)  
We Know Better (director Michal Budinsky & Igor Zacharov, 2011)  
I Won't Give In (director Niko Sonnberger, 2012)

### **Awards and Nominations**

-Winner, Coca Cola Popstar 2007  
-Newcomer of the Year, TV Óčko Awards 2008  
-Newcomer of the Year, Zebrik Awards 2008

- Newcomer of the Year, Musicserver Awards 2008
- Best Song, Musicserver Awards (Come On) 2008
- Nomination - Best Album, Zebrik Awards (Little Black Book) 2008
- Nomination - Best Song, Zebrik Awards (Lost in Encryption) 2008
- Nomination – Newcomer of the Year, Filter Magazine 2008
- Nomination – Best Czech Artist, Filter Magazine 2008
- 7 weeks in radio Express Charts (3x 1<sup>st</sup> place - Lost in Encryption) 2008
- 5 weeks in T-Music Charts and Radio Evropa 2 Charts (Come On) 2008
- 5 weeks in Meduza (Czech Television) Charts (Come On) 2008
- 15 weeks in Radio Relax Charts (Come On) 2008
- Best Song, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Zebrik Awards (I Won't Give In) 2010
- Best Song, Zebrik Awards (We Know Better) 2011
- Best Video, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Zebrik Awards (We Know Better) 2011
- Best Singer, 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Zebrik, Awards (Michal Motycka) 2011
- 5 weeks in Meduza (Czech Television) Charts (1<sup>st</sup> place – Sleep at Night) 2011
- 5 weeks in Meduza (Czech Television) Charts (1<sup>st</sup> place – We Know Better) 2012
- 5 weeks in Meduza (Czech Television) Charts (1<sup>st</sup> place – I Won't Give In) 2012

## **Links:**

[www.NiceLand.cz](http://www.NiceLand.cz)

[www.bandzone.cz/NiceLand](http://www.bandzone.cz/NiceLand)

[www.myspace.com/NiceLandmusicpage](http://www.myspace.com/NiceLandmusicpage)

[www.facebook.com/NiceLandcz](http://www.facebook.com/NiceLandcz)