

Attached you find the original interview before the translation from English to German between Ingo for Soundmagnet.eu and John from Pattern Seeking Animals:

**First of all; the question to start with. How are you these days? I really hope you and your beloved ones are healthy and well.**

I'm doing well, thanks. Hope you're all doing well there in Austria!

**Right into the album: You are releasing the new Pattern-Seeking Animals album „Prehensile Tales“ on 15th May. In your words, how different is it compared to your last years' debut album?**

We were all happy with the way the first album turned out but when we started it, it wasn't meant to be an album or even a band for that matter. That all came together about halfway through recording so some of the songs had been around for a while or came from a few different projects. For Prehensile Tales, all the material is new and was written specifically for the album and the decision was made up front to try a few different musical directions and add some additional instruments like violin, flute, trumpet, sax, etc.

**You released „Here in my autumn“ as the first single of „Prehensile Tales“. I really liked it a lot! How were the reactions in general on it?**

Thanks! The reaction has been mostly very good. I think it may have surprised a few people with the different production approach it took compared to the first album, especially so soon after it was released.

**How was recording „Prehensile Tales“ for you personal? Are there special moments you remember and want to share with us?**

I write and do preproduction at home in my studio and those days tend to blend into each other after so many months. It's very easy to get lost in the process when you're buried in headphones concentrating on a computer screen for hours on end. The most fun is always when we go to The Mouse House studio to record Jimmy's drum parts because once that's done, it really starts to feel like the songs get locked into place and the album is taking shape. Definitely the needed kick to finish everything else. It's also great when outside players come into the studio to add trumpet, flute, etc.

**Is there a song which was outstanding difficult to record or write, or a song which was fun and easy?**

I'm not sure I'd ever describe writing as fun. It can be tedious and frustrating at times but when you come up with something that really works, it's really satisfying and rewarding. When I start to write a song, I usually have a few false starts where nothing seems to be working. Once all the elements lock into place though, I usually find the song fairly easy to finish. Not necessarily quick, but relatively painless. The song that took the shortest time to write and was probably the easiest was "Soon But Not Today."

**Pattern Seeking Animals consists more or less of the same members than the current Spock's Beard incarnation, with a few exceptions. You are writing many songs for Spock's Beard too. Where are the differences for you between Pattern Seeking Animal and Spock's Beard? Are there any?**

I haven't written anything for Spock's in about four years at this point. Besides different guitarist and keyboardist, a major difference is that when writing for Pattern-Seeking Animals there are no limitations as far as what I can do stylistically. Writing for Spock's, or anyone else for that matter, you have to be mindful of what types of music they will or won't play and specific sounds and styles the individual player are comfortable with. The other difference is that for better or worse, with Pattern-Seeking Animals I have the final say on which songs end up on the album and how they're produced.

**The cover artwork is very interesting. It reminds of everyone's being an „Atlas on his own“, carrying the whole world for himself. Who is responsible for this concept, and what was the idea behind it? And do you think this is reflected in the lyrics?**

The lyrics were finished and recorded before we thought about coming up with artwork. The artist is Mirek who is from Poland. I decided to look for existing artwork for this album since we were up against a deadline and I wasn't sure there would be time to develop something from scratch. When I came across Mirek's site on Instagram, he had quite a few pieces I thought would work for album covers but the one we used instantly hit me as being perfect and fortunately we were able to license it from him.

**Speaking of the weight of the world, Covid-19 is surely an issue for you. What are your restrictions regarding the Covid-19 disease, apart from not touring? Does it affect the work of your bands, and will it postpone coming works? Do you have any plans to tour with Pattern Seeking Animals, maybe together with Spock's Beard?**

I have a day job and fortunately, I already work from home. Since I also write and record at home, being locked down hasn't made much of a difference in my everyday life as it has for so many others. We had Prehensile Tales finished and delivered a few weeks before the pandemic hit so we got lucky with the timing of that. I'm already writing for album number three pretty much the same as I would've been, pandemic or not. As far as live, I don't think anyone has any idea of when that will be happening and in what form. We're all just collectively waiting it out. I can safely say though that touring on the same bill with Spock's won't happen.

**Are you comfortable with the idea of playing live? Or do you even think about streaming a concert for your fans?**

We're all comfortable with playing live and had already started working on a 90 minute set for RoSfest when that was cancelled along with everything else. Streaming a concert though seems like a tremendous amount of work and a money-losing proposition. Personally, I'd rather spend the time working on new material.

**How about a new Spock's Beard album? Is there something you can say at the moment? What about other new projects you have in the pipeline?**

I could say if I knew anything but I have no idea what's going on with Spock's Beard at the moment. I've been out of the loop for a couple years now since starting Pattern-Seeking Animals. The next project in the pipeline is Pattern-Seeking Animals #3!

**Thank you again for your time!**

**Best,  
Ingo**