

**Attached you find the original Interview before the translation from english to german between Sascha for Soundmagnet.eu and Stefan from Falconer.**

**Hello and thank you for taking the time to answer my questions!**

**First of all congratulations to a great new but unfortunately final album!**

Thank you so very much. I am fortunate enough to be able to say that the final album we did is one of the best.

**Can you tell us why you made the decision to end Falconer with this record?**

We decided in 2015 to make some final and last shows. After that we took a break as usual, it just happened to be longer than usual. After 2 years without even touching the guitar I started think about new songs and came up with a few songs I thought was really great. Meanwhile I felt that although I love Falconers music I knew just too well how to write it, it felt like although I loved doing it it somehow felt a bit too familiar. So then I had a few months where I really hadto decide if I were to end the band or doing one last album. The last think I wanted was to have these few really killer songs and then fill the album up with so-so material just to get it overwith. I decided to make a complee final album filled with songs as good as I possibly could, just letting it take the time it needed. No rush or force. When I feel I have the right material then we're ready for the studio. It all took 6 years and it was really worth the time.

**Let me jump right into the album! In many songs the guitars on this album reminded me a lot of your former band Mithotyn and the first two Falconer albums. It seems like you wanted to put in everything that stood for Falconer's sound throughout the band's history, but also remind of the band's roots and its predecessor.**

Well I wanted all the essences of Falconer to have it's own focus point somewhere in the album and that all elements should be there. I never thought that I tried to go back in time at all. We defenately have more folk elements on this album. Maybe not more than usual but certainly more than on „Black moon rising“ from 2014. Well, the last song „Rapture“ originally was meant to be a newly written for MITHOTYN in 2017 which never happened. Some changes made of course, but that's the only sentimental or backwards looking thing on the album for me personally.

**In your statement on Facebook I read that this was your intention, since you wanted a special album that contains all these elements to be your swan song.**

**I think you nailed it, and it's a pity that after such a good album the band will stop existing.**

**Are you also content with the result and could you tell us a bit more about the songwriting and recording sessions?**

I am so satisfied that the final album actually sounds like a hungry album and not like a tired one. The process was longer this time since I knew that since it would be the final one I could just take the extra time to let it come to me and re-write stuff if necessary. For me personally this all resulted in that the products or songs are more divided in time and thus gets a bit more personal and stand alonish than let's say 10 songs written during the same month. My favourite album this far without counting the new one is NORTHWIND, but we'll see what I think in a year. The new one is a strong contender.

**With Mathias Blad you have an exceptional and unique vocalist in your band, kind of an identifier for the Falconer sound, but since the guitars on this album go back a bit to old Mithotyn times, and in your statement I kind of read between the lines that you maybe felt a bit too constrained in the Falconer sound: Are there any plans of creating something new out of Falconer's ashes, perhaps something that goes even further back to the sound of Mithotyn, perhaps even vocalwise?**

No I've already been in the past. I'd rather go forwards wherever that leads. The stuff I did with Mithotyn and Falconer I know inside out by now. At the moment I'm just playing around, learn new things and discovering new ways and tools to make music. Whenever I have a somewhat serious idea clear we will see what that results in. It might be very different, it might not even get me a chance to release an album but just ending up on an obscure Soundcloud page. At the moment I just feel a bit lost AND free at the same time. Maybe a bit like if you're out of a long relationship and feeling free but you have no idea in what direction you want to go. I still cherish the music and time we had both with Mithotyn and Falconer. Meanwhile I feel like I have said everything I wanted there.

**Will the band dissolve completely or will some of you stay together under a new banner?**

No such plans at all. But then what happens in the future you can never say, maybe a guest appearance or something.

**But back to the album.**

**How hard was it to make the decision to bury the band with this album after so many years, and after sounding so refreshed and strong on it?**

**I rated From A Dying Ember with a 8/10 and i saw a lot of other reviews rating it deserved very high!**

It feels perfect. I actually thought that „Black moon rising“ was a super album and I thought about it a while. I didn't want to make a final album that is worse than BMR, then it's better

to end on a high note and just throw the new songs away.

I told myself to not make a decision and not have any hurry. Just write when you want and scrap everything that is not good enough even if I want the current song to be finished soon. That really made me write a few new songs that persuaded me into actually write a complete new and final album since I knew the material would be good enough. It's the right time to stop now instead of just going on and becoming stale and then ending it with a tired repetitive album in a few years at which point I may tell myself that „I should have stopped a few years earlier“. As it is now I can look back and say that we were great until the end.

**Who is writing the lyrics for Falconer, and can you tell us a bit about the influences and themes? You use a lot of medieval metaphors, but most of the songs seem to have a second layer that can be interpreted in a modern or personal way.**

Yes they certainly can. I write all the lyrics and most of them deal with something from present day and things I have experienced or have thought about. I always try to use a somewhat medieval sounding language or overly poetic style just to make them sound right and fit the band. Some of the topics this time is: a stupid president, the environment, the passing of my grandmother, how you can't escape your own ghosts and anxiety etc.

**I guess you might be fed up with this question though I want to ask: How did the current corona virus crisis affect you as a band? You had that strict lockdown in Sweden like we had in Germany and Austria too.**

Not at all. We recorded the album in Feb, just prior to the outbreak. After that we have not done anything active as a band until the album release. So the Corona hasn't really meant anything for the band but then, you can't really become more introvert and laidback as a band. I think that is the sole reason why we never became bigger, we never made any effort to win more ground. No tours, little merchandise, almost no social media activity, few videos etc etc. We were just content with writing and recording music.

**Did you have any last live shows planned and had to cancel those or will this album never see the stage?**

No, we made an official statement back in 2014 that the Progpower show in Atlanta USA would be the very last live show we did. Playing live was never a reason for Falconer to exist, it was always more of a side bonus we did now and then but never with any real plan or devotion. I can't say that I ever felt at home on the stage, it was always like pretending to be someone I'm not. The travelling, seeing things, getting to meet fans was the best thing with the live gigs.

**You started out in a time when the Internet was still kind of young and the rise of mp3 had just begun, nowadays we have streaming services, Youtube etc. and it seems to be even harder for musicians to make money with their releases, especially if they do not play live so much. Looking back at all the years since Falconer's debut album in 2001, what is your résumé of this long time, and what are the lessons you have learned about the music business and the changes it has gone through over the years?**

I don't know if I have learnt that much. We have been very fortunate to have Metal Blade who always have let us do our thing. Of course we would have more progress if we would have devoted ourselves into „making it“ and trying to make a living out of it. Since we've always had a relatively laidback attitude to it and just made music for the reason of music I guess we could have missed out on parts of the professional and serious side of the business.

**Depending on this: Is there any advice you could give to other musicians and young bands just starting out?**

The only tip I ever can give due to my „lack of knowing of the industry“ is, don't copy what others do if you want to sound original. I think that my kind of original writing is a result of the fact that I can not play any covers and have not tried to learn how other make or play music. So the I have never been influenced or had the possibility to use others tricks and tools. For example the most I can play of someone else's song is the opening riff and verse of „C'mon and love me“ by KISS or „Holy Diver“ by DIO. Apart from that I know a few riffs but that's it basically.

**Is there anything you would do otherwise if you could turn back time?**

No not really. Maybe that I would have dared to do more things musically, but then when you have your little niche it's sensitive to step outside of those borders.

**One final question, because I am always curious what music other musicians listen to:  
Could you please name bands and albums that you really love or that influenced you in your life and music?**

Jethro Tull, Dio, Kiss, Guns 'n' roses, Mike Oldfield, Bathory, Death, Bolt Thrower, Iron Maiden, Simon and Garfunkel etc. It's a really diverse pool of inspiration.

Thank you very much for your time again.

Best, Sascha