

Attached you find the original Interview before the translation from English to German between Markus for Soundmagnet.eu and Nika Brunet from MH Music Holidays GmbH.

Markus A. (Soundmagnet): This year is the first year without Metaldays/Metalcamp since 2004. How do you generally feel about this difficult situation?

Nika Brunet (MH Music Holidays GmbH): Situation is rather strange indeed; whole music sector in completely on its knees. So probably we all share the same feelings and those are not really good feelings.

Are there any plans for smaller live events in Slovenia instead of Metaldays 2020?

No, we do not have any plans for that. At the moment, there are only gatherings allowed for max.10 people, for all others up to a 100 you need a special permission. And we do not expect this will change any time soon, the social distancing measures and other regulations.

You are planing to move the line-up of 2020 directly to 2021.How are you doing with this dedicated plan and can we really expect the exact same line-up next year?

Yes, most of the line-up is mirrored to 2021, it seemed like a logical thing to do.

You started a donation initiative and selling special Covid-19-Merchandize to at least reduce the financial loss. How are these initiatives going and can they at least somehow stabilize the difficult situation you're in this year?

No initiative will be able to cover the damage and the impact done by the Covid-19 situation. Of course I would like to use the oportunity to say thank you to all our supporters, those who kept the ticket for the 2021 edition, all who purchased the merchandise and for all the kind and encouraging words of our visitors as friends as well.

You also started the "New Metal Festival" as a kind of Warm-Up for Metaldays and to support lesser known bands. Will this also be re-scheduled to 2021?

Yes.

At the moment, nobody knows when a cure or vaccine for Covid-19 will be available. What would happen with Metaldays if 2021 has to be postponed, too?

That is absolutely too soon to even speak about, we are of course all looking forward to 2021 edition so we hope everything will be OK by then.

The Slovenian government is planning to build a road through the Soca Valley, which will force the Metaldays Festival to move to another location. Are there any updates in which year the location change will definitely take place and where exactly the new location will be?

As communicated also on all our channels, the roadworks are scheduled to begin in September (autumn) 2021 so MetalDays 2021 will be the last one on this location. The location is being negotiated at the moment, we are looking forward to it.

The Metaldays Line-Up has always been a Mix of famous bands, lesser known bands, Underground bands and Newcomers. How do you evaluate the European underground scene and why do you put so much effort in supporting it?

Underground scene is always coming in waves, sometimes it is stronger and more diverse, sometimes it is more quiet; however it is always worth supporting, because it is the only way to keep the diversity in music, to allow also less known bands to present themselves to wider audience and keep the scene alive.

Since we are an Austrian zine: Are there any Austrian Bands you want to recommend to our readers?

Austrian metal scene is not so unknown and small as some might think; I would not like to point out any band, but would definitely like to invite the readers to come and see the bands live and support them with buying their music; after all - metal concerts are always fun and we deserve lots of it!

Whom are your favorite under-appreciated/underground bands at the moment?

Hard question, I will politically correct not answer it but can relate to the answer above; many under-appreciated bands that I knew already in the past are now almost superstars.

Metaldays is a member of the European Metal Festival Alliance, which offers Livestreams in order to deal with the difficult situation this summer. What do you think about livestreams in general and are they an alternative to a real festival?

I personally think livestreams are not a life saver of the industry. IT is something that is allowing us to at least maneuver a bit around the event space...however they are not even close to the "real deal". After all, music festivals and particularly MetalDays is all about the experience and nothing recorded and nothing from computer or stereo can come even close to this.

Livestream festivals and concerts are mainly "created" by the Corona-situation. Do you think livestreams will stay with us in the (Corona-free) future, too?

I most certainly hope not and that they will be just a very distant memory very soon.

Is there anything you want to say to our readers and all the Metaldays fans?

I would like to say thanks again to everyone supporting us, in the situation that is absolutely difficult for all of us, not just us, promoters. I am sending all our readers lots of love with the idea we will see eachother again very soon at our amazing festival. Take care!