

**Attached you find the original Interview before the translation from english to german between Ingo for Soundmagnet.eu and Andy from The Tangent:**

**What was the initial idea behind *Auto Reconnaissance*? Mostly your lyrics are up to date and are dealing with actual social and political issues. I think the current Covid-19 situation is reflected indirectly, too. Do you share this point?**

Yes... you are right, there is an element of real world social and political awareness in The Tangent's music and has been since the third album. It is one of the things that give The Tangent its identity and difference with many other bands. Not everyone likes this aspect of our music, but many like the band *because* of this. We have this anonymous Hungarian guy who follows us about on Youtube telling everyone he hates our lyrics.. makes me laugh. So much cool music in the world for him to like but wastes his time hating ours. And at the same time we have a fan in the Australian Government who searches out our music simply because he feels that we are dealing with issues that he feels more people should be addressing.

So.. as usual in the post internet world, lots of opinions, no answers. We don't give answers, we ask questions and hope people will ask them too. „Auto Reconnaissance“ is another of our socially aware albums, but this is far less about „politics“ - it's more about forgiveness, understanding and knowing one's self better. And this is what I wanted to achieve. An album about the world we live in that does not shout „you are wrong and we are right“ - instead it's more of an invitation to work together – accept each others viewpoints and try to find common ground we can build up from. It obviously does not translate to the Hungarian guy who says we write „Liberal Bullshit“! Well, of course we do!

**Did the current Covid-19 situation make the production of *Auto Reconnaissance* difficult in any aspect? Considering the time frame of the music album productions, the album itself has been made before the whole lockdowns?**

In fact our album was recorded before the lockdowns, but mixed during the lockdowns. This meant that nearly everything functioned as normal, because The Tangent has always been a distance recording band, we were pioneers in Internet work back with Po90 in the 90s, and our Debut Tangent album was recorded before we had really met each other.

So, everything was „business as usual“. Of course, many members of the band lost work, tours and money – these things were terrible in their own way, but this project, thankfully, went ahead on schedule .

**You are a great story teller! Do you think the stories and lyrics told on *Auto Reconnaissance* are personal in any regard? May you tell us the intention of your stories?**

Well Thankyou for the compliment... storytelling is an important part of The Tangent's music for sure. Big influences there from bands like the original Genesis... (Epping Forest, Get 'em Out By Friday, Fountain of Salmacis etc)... Al Stewart, Roy Harper, Peter Hammill and I also consider Yes to be brilliant storytellers even though the words are more abstract. They certainly fulfilled my desire to be told a story through music.

I like to tell stories from my own experiences (Like the Jinxed In Jersey/Lost In London/Perdu Dans Paris series) – down to people I've met and their life experiences (Like the WW2 pilots in our „In Earnest“ songs) and then people I have not met - like the refugees crossing the Mediterranean in little boats, a story we looked at on the „Slow Rust“ album.

**What was different when you recorded *Auto Reconnaissance* in comparison to *Proxy* or *The Slow Rust Of Forgotten Machinery*?**

I think the most important thing about this record is that it was the most fun to make ever. One of the reasons for that was it was the fourth album in a row made by Jonas, Luke, Theo and myself, and Steve's second album with the band. After touring together a fair bit together, we found that we'd become more friends, able to laugh and joke together and enjoyed spending time together. That aspect of the band has been growing steadily, and this time it just blossomed to fruition. Makes a lot of difference when we have a load of memories we share together.

**How was working with the other musicians? Does this change over the years? Especially with old bandmates like Jonas Reingold.**

I have a great working relationship with all the musicians in the band, and despite the common conception that „The Tangent always changes lineup“, in fact four out of five of us have done at least 10 years in the Tangent and 3 of us have been together for more than 15 years. So many people have come and gone , but there is a constant „Tangent“ which has now been around for a long time. Jonas is the rock on which the Tangent is built, it was he who focussed so much attention on the Tangent in the early days, along with Roine Stolt in the first two years. I think Jonas' decision to stay with the band after those first two records, and after Roine had gone, this was the moment that The Tangent became a real functioning band.

Yes, Jonas and I are very different types of musician, but I personally feel that learning the ways other people work, write and play is a huge benefit to everyone. Jonas (and Luke) both have hugely more formal musical knowledge than me, both of them came up through high quality musical educations, where I came up through being in Punk Rock bands and cannot even read music. But they have taught me more about music than I could have asked from any institution and I value every word they say... even if I don't understand it all the time!

**The mix elements of classic Progressive Rock with Jazz and quite new elements like Pop and R'n'B is very interesting. I love this rich mixture, and think this elements fit together perfectly. The artwork reflects this too. The artwork on *Auto Reconnaissance* is very typical for *The Tangent*, contrary to the one on *Proxy*. What was the idea behind this lovely artwork, made by Ed Unitsky?**

I find it restricting to just stick with one Genre. Prog Rock from the 70s was a great thing for sure, but I don't just wanna keep on making music that's inspired by that every time. What I use is the same philosophy that those bands used themselves – you can use ANYTHING – classical, Jazz, Folk, Movie Themes, Advertising jingles, Technology and make something new out of it. And in 2020 we have so much more that has been added to the palette since 1979. Punk, Djent, Thrash, Ibiza Dance, House, Trance, R & B, Hip Hop, R & B, Britpop, Trap, Dubstep are all out there in the world. For us to ignore it and simply ape the 70s bands would be to betray their own philosophies. So we just let our feelings run free. We still construct the music in a progressive manner, we just have a wider pool of influences from which to draw inspiration.

**Do you remember something special during the production of *Auto Reconnaissance*, something very positive, or very negative?**

Yes... I think that the production was a wonderful experience. I am talking about the production/sound of the album. Luke Machin did a fantastic job, and this was his second time wearing a producers hat for The Tangent. He worked really well with me on this album, and although the credit for this is shared between the two of us, it was Luke who made the all important final mix. We bounced ideas for this backwards and forwards and in the end I think this is the best sounding Tangent Record of our career so far. The production is clear, widescreen but focussed on every detail that needs to be focussed on, takes into account everything I wanted the record to be. Instead of the reording being taken „out of my hands“, I actually feel that what happened here was that Luke put it more „into my hands“ by keeping my wishes in his mind and making them come to life. A sterling job he did. He brought his own ideas, developed the overall sound but never lost my trust or my vision for the record. Watch closely.. this is how it's done! Working TOGETHER is best.

**You had some serious health issues a few years ago. Fortunately you're sounding fresh and healthy on your latest records. Were those issues still something you've still got to deal with on *Auto Reconnaissance*?**

At present I am feeling pretty healthy to be honest. I'm 61 years old now but still physically active (I put a 20 metre high steel tower on the side of my house yesterday!). I try to keep open to new ideas and musical styles and walk wherever possible. I'm not suffering any noticable after effects of my Heart attack in 2015, I've dispensed with all pharmaceutical medication and I am now a vegetarian and gave up smoking. I think that's helped my voice which is very nice for me, I usually hate hearing my own voice on the records. (And so do some other people). This time I think there's an improvement. So here's hoping for good times ahead!

**How about your touring activity? Unfortunately Covid-19 made it difficult for everyone to tour, but how about your plans of presenting *Auto Reconnaissance* in this or next year? Do you think it's possible, with or without limitations?**

No plans to tour as yet. Too early to say what we're gonna do, of course we want to play live as soon as possible, but a lot to sort out before then. Sorry, I can't say more than that now.

**May I ask you about your opinion on streaming services like Spotify and Co.? Do you think they are a chance for you to get more range for your music? Some artists think these services are stealing money from them due to their small revenues, what do you think?**

I think the *idea* of stuff like Spotify is great. It's great for the consumer, but terrible for the artists. Free food would be great too, but the Farmers might not want to make it for you. Spotify are essentially offering the entire history of recorded sound, to the world for 10 euros a month which anyone can see is a bargain that has no real basis for the future of music. If Spotify have an actual desire to see new music succeed, they really really do need to see the artists right. At present they are simply laughing at us as content providers. I do think that they are stealing, yes. Of course in a way that is „totally legal.“

**For me, Vinyl is the perfect medium for your music, I've bought the great looking brick red one. Do you share this opinion? Your first albums were released on CD only, will there be Vinyl reissues? Personally, I would love to have a Vinyl of your first three albums!**

So would I. We'll see, in the end it's up to Insideout and Sony. If we get a few more chart successes in future releases, maybe they'll give it a go. I love the feel and ceremony of vinyl, the most satisfying way of enjoying listening to music, but in my opinion, the most fidelious way to listen is the CD. I write and record with the CD as the main target. When you hear our music on CD, you are hearing EXACTLY what we heard when we finished the record. When you hear it on vinyl, you are not. If you happen to listen on Bose Quiet Comfort headphones, you will hear exactly what I heard when I said to Luke „That's It! - We're finished“ That's fact, not opinion. If you LIKE the vinyl better, that's cool with me. But it's opinion, not fact. Both opinion and fact are important. And both need each other to work!

**What do you think will be different on your next album? Some new elements or general ideas?**

We have an idea for an album which has a limitation we place on it. In other words, we will make an album which has no \_\_\_\_\_ on it, at all. This will make it interesting to play, and very interesting to listen to.

**Do you have plans for projects outside from *The Tangent*? Maybe some „real“ solo albums in the future, like those „Disk Drive“ albums?**

I have a fantastic time with my solo stuff. I don't have a successful solo career, so nothing is to lose.. I can just do what I want, when I want and it's great great fun. It's usually less structured than The Tangent, but sometimes even more structured. I love doing that stuff. And yes, there will be more and in 2020!

**Thank you again for your time.**

And Thank you for yours. Ich spreche Deutsch aber nicht gut genug fur diese fragen zu antworten, es tut mir leid!. Aber, vielen dank, Grussgott und aufweiderschreiben!