

Attached you find the original Interview before the translation from english to german between Sascha for Soundmagnet.eu and Shane from Wayfarer:

Thank you very much for your precious time answering a few questions for our magazine. First of all I want to congratulate for this fantastic new album and thanks for taking the time to answer my questions!

Thank you, glad you enjoyed the album, and thank you for taking the time.

How were the recording sessions and rehearsing/songwriting for the new album in the times of social distancing?

It was strange, but we got used to it pretty fast. We were initially set to fly out to New York to record at Colin Marston's studio as we had done on the last album, but this was at the end of March so things changed pretty fast. We were afforded some extra time, which ultimately benefited the record, and we took some precautions and got to work.

I really like the lyrical and conceptual approach of the album, it's something refreshingly different, hearing stories and influences from the old American West from a Black Metal band.

As far as I know it began with your second album Old Souls ... was it a natural decision to choose this topic because of your location, was it a historical interest? How critical do you view the history of your country, or is it just a romantic view on times gone by with stories readily available to be forged into lyrics?

I think where we are from has always kind of shaped the band's thematic direction, and diving into the history as well as the lore of the West and it's portrayal has seemed natural and interesting to us to explore. This album in particular, its a bit of both - it's just as much about "The Western" as it is "The West." It looks as the history of it as well as the image of it, and kind of peels back the curtain on what is so romanticised in comparison to what it may have actually been.

How does your creative process work, is there one person writing all of the songs and one person responsible for the lyrics and concepts, or is everything a band effort?

It's certainly a very collaborative band. We start with the concepts, which are usually conceived by one person, but then we discuss them and how they will apply to the music together. Then while the riffs and skeleton I will often bring, we flesh out and arrange the songs together. Then I write the lyrics after the song is composed to kind of fill in the gaps of what it was about.

I saw a live show on Youtube you played outside in the plains near the mountains, which really showed you are an excellent live band as well. Do you miss playing your music live, and are there any concerts or tours already planned despite the Covid situation?

Yes, the Fire In The Mountains festival - it is very dear to us. We certainly miss playing live, and once it is safe to do so once again, we certainly look forward to doing so. Having finished this whole new album, we are certainly itching to bring it to the stage. Nothing is set in stone yet as things are still so tentative, but we are starting to look at plans, which may be a while out but we do plan to tour in the US, in Europe, and hopefully beyond.

On this mentioned YouTube video I happily noticed that one of you guys wore an Iron Maiden shirt, one of my most favorite bands of all time. On the album I really like the melodic guitar parts that often times remind me of the great Dissection, and you integrated the folky aspects of Americana too into your music.

How varied are your influences, it certainly ain't just Black Metal for sure?

We have a huge array of influence to be sure, as we are all music nerds in this band and take in a lot of different music. At the core of Wayfarer there is a lot of influence from metal bands like Opeth, Primordial, Moonsorrow etc., and definitely a defined presence of "Denver Sound" Gothic Americana like Sixteen Horsepower, and Jay Munly etc. But we are influenced by a plethora of things metal and beyond. Who doesn't love Iron Maiden? And yes I could see the Dissection as well and take that as a compliment. Our drummer is a massive fan!

As a Metal fan I am really happy about all the varied and great heavy music that has been released in the USA in the last couple of years, be it bands like Visigoth, Lady Beast and Night Demon from the classic Metal sector, or Pallbearer, Helms Alee and Spirit Adrift from the Doom area, and of course excellent bands like Agalloch (who sadly are no more), Wolves in the Throne Room, Panopticon and of course Wayfarer.

What are your thoughts on the current US Metal scene? Are there connections and friendships between bands, and do you like its development?

We are absolutely pleased to see so many bands rise up from the US these days as well, we all grew up listening to a lot of metal from Europe and still do, but it is good to have a significant scene here that holds its own in that respect. Denver, where we are from has so many great bands like Primitive Man, Blood Incantation, Dreadnought etc - and it is a very interconnected and friendly scene here. Beyond that we really connect and align with bands like Falls of Rauros of Maine and Krallice of New York among others.

Your album was also released on major streaming services, what are your thoughts about this modern approach to release music? Necessary evil or a good way to make your music accessible to a wider audience?

I think its a bit of both - a lot of us in this band are the types to still purchase physical media as we like to own good pieces of art, and grew up still in the era where this is how music was discovered and enjoyed. But the times will always change, and although it can seem kind of sterile and oversaturated there are good aspects of having so much access to music. Certainly as a band it has helped our music reach a lot of people that it may not have otherwise, and we still sell a good amount of vinyl, CD, and tapes so there are clearly still people who prefer to own the albums in this way.

What are your thoughts on the increasing popularity and the "rise of vinyl"?

Well, I think it makes sense in a way, being a record collector myself, as are Isaac and James. Digital is a great way to discover music, but once you find things you like you still want to own it - and now with the rise of digital, if you do want to own something, vinyl is kind of the purest form - it sounds great, the music is physically pressed, the art is more full scale, and you get to own something truly tangible. It's also an archival sense, so especially hunting older releases in their intended form is enticing and makes a lot of sense to me.

Last but not least: being a metalhead for over 27 years now and a CD and record collector plus album listener, I am always interested in what albums other metalheads love and adore above all else. So I'd love to hear the personal top three albums of all time from each of you guys, if you like!

Well, I can only speak for myself - and three is tough. but if I had to pick three, I may say Opeth's Still Life or Blackwater Park, Primordial's The Gathering Wilderness, and 16 Horsepower's Sackcloth n' Ashes.

Thanks for the interview and hope to see you guys live on stage as soon as possible!

Thank you! Hope to see you in that scenario as well!