

Attached you can find the original Interview between our editor Michael and Jeff Scott Soto before translation:

- ✓ Covid-19 has the world firmly in its grip. Did this change anything for you in the way you approached the recording of *Wide Awake (In My Dreamland)*?

Not really, we started writing and recording it in Dec 2019 and Jan 2020. We originally had a mid-summer release month in mind but to my advantage it was pushed to November as I was rushed to get my vocals finished for the 1st deadline. This allowed me to re-address a lot of the songs and truly make it right.

- ✓ Do you prefer this way of working, getting song suggestions, for which you can work out the vocal melodies and lyrics in your studio?

Absolutely, I not only prefer the luxury of working things out, trying things and more important, not letting anyone hear me doing these things as I croak out the song the 1st times...some of the ideas sound really funny if you hear them in a room with no music haha. But yes, I prefer working out all the details and letting whoever I am working with listen to the final version I feel is right.

- ✓ Is *Wide Awake (In my Dreamland)* your first collaboration with Alessandro Del Vecchio?

Yes, sort of...I met Ale in 2005 while on tour with the JSS Band, Marcel Jacob from Talisman was producing his 1st album for a band called Edge Of Forever. They asked me since I had a day off, if I could come in and sing backing vocals for them. Then recently when Steve Perry released his latest solo album, Ale and I collaborated to do a Perry solo song as a 'welcome back Steve' message. We are now working on a lot of things together including a new project called SPEKTRA which features 2 of my guys from the band SOTO.

- ✓ Would you like to jam regularly with a band in the rehearsal room again and work on songs together?

Nah, I am not creative until I have the full canvas to color in, I feel I am more in the way when the music is being written, very rarely do I ask or need to change things in a finished song so I can complete it. I prefer to make the piece of music work as is and work around it so it's untouched.

- ✓ *Wide Awake (In my Dreamland)* is very melodic, but also has some strong rock guitars. For me the album is the link between your solo project SOTO and W.E.T. What do you think about that?

SOTO is much heavier and more contemporary than JSS or W.E.T., SOTO for me lets me flex my wings and do something a little different overall. JSS albums are truly a chance for me to explore all of my musical endeavours and W.E.T. is basically a replacement of Talisman for me.

- ✓ I read that you can be heard on over 85 releases. How many of them are on your shelf at home?

I have a bookshelf with 4 rows dedicated alone to all that I have sung on, as many I actually own anyway. On top of over 85 albums I have sung lead on, I have another 100 or more I am singing backing vocals on, its pretty crazy, I wish my bank account reflected how much work I have done hahaha.

- ✓ What kind of music do you listen to at home, or when you're out and on the road in your car?

To be honest, I rarely listen to anything but what I am working on because I am always working on the next item as I am finishing one. It is hard to concentrate on my own things if I am listening to others but also, I would rather listen to audiobooks or talk radio like Howard Stern as a a break from too much music haha.

- ✓ Would you like to sing again a traditional Heavy Metal album in the style of Iron Maiden or Judas Priest?

No need to really, I have my outlets like SOTO and Sons Of Apollo that allow me to sing the heavier genre of my career, I don't have any interest in singing a genre or style that belongs to a Classic artist, they do it well already!

- ✓ Or to sing on an album that is completely foreign to the Rock genre?

I have done MANY albums, recordings and sessions outside of the Rock genre, MANY! Even my solo album Beautiful Mess, not Hard Rock at all, more Soul/R&B/Groove/Funk Rock.

- ✓ How do you estimate the possibilities of being on stage again in the close future?

I have no idea, I nor anyone alive could predict this would last more than a month, now to hear it can go another year or more from now, I have stopped guessing and predicting, I will wait like everyone else.

- ✓ Do you still love to perform on stage and being out on the road for touring?

I live for it, but I don't live for it doing live streams or drive in shows, I need people, I need the connection, I need to sing and laugh with an audience...I am in NO hurry to go perform live under the current mandates and regulations, like I said, I will wait until the water is safe to go swimming again!

- ✓ A political question at the end, if you allow me. What do you wish for your country with the presidential elections taking place at the beginning of november?

I won't get into this issue outside of I believe in respect, science and common sense, from this you can make your mind up where I stand politically.

- ✓ The last words in this interview are yours. A few words for your german fans probably?

I miss you all, I miss your country and your enthusiasm for live music, please stay safe as I cannot wait until we're reunited once again!