

**Attached you can find the interview between our editor Ingo and Brian Mason from Contrarian before translating to German.**

**How are you, did you go well through the actual difficult situation, especially for musicians?**

We are holding up OK. It's tough not being able to jam, but I guess it leaves us time to create and practice.

**How big were the limitations through the lockdown during the writing of *Only Time Will Tell*?**

We had the majority of the album recorded before lockdown. We had to wait a bit to safely record vocals in May, but we were able to get it all done and ready for mixing and mastering just in time.

**For me, the Death Metal and Progressive Metal elements on „Only Time Will Tell“ are well balanced and fit perfectly together. Are you aware of any room of improvement for the next record?**

I feel with every album we tend to grow on some things. Personally, I spent a little more time refining solo's on this album. I still wrote them on the spot as I have always done, but I tried new things and do many takes till I got something nice. Previously, I'd just try 3 or 4 takes and pick one. Musically, I think we grow a little with every album. I feel the next one will just be that much more refined and we already have ideas improve on some things.

***Only Time Will Tell* is your fourth album. Was there something different for you regarding the production and writing process compared to its predecessors? What do you think makes *Only Time Will Tell* so special?**

Not really, even with two new members, we approached this one the same way in terms of production. We all record separately at different times. It's a cool way to do it because we get to hear the songs take shape as each member records their parts. It's great. We did use Neil Kernon to mix this one though which really stepped up the final product. It sounds huge and really full. Neil is a king.

**Is there something on *Only Time Will Tell* you are particularly proud of?**

On the personal side, my decision to use a Lap Steel on the instrumental „Beat the Clock“ really made that song work as a building piece of music together with the drum breaks. Plus I just think it's great to have a Lap Steel on a death metal record.

Other than that, just how well we can put albums like this together so well. Even with two new members. It just seems like every one in the band knows what to do without telling them. It's a great feeling and important for this band to work.

**The mixture of Death Metal and Progressive Metal seems to be something many European metal bands like to experiment with. What do you think? How big is the audience for your blend of Progressive Metal in the United States?**

It's strange. I get the feeling that US fans are a bit more picky and faithful to certain genres and tend to „poo poo“ things they don't like. So it seems our US audience either tends to love Contrarian or think that it's not technical enough or it's not produced enough. We tend to record naturally with no quantizing and not too many cleanups. I like when guitars squeak or you hear a weird note in there. We want our records to sound almost live. It's natural and that is one of the ways we keep our OSDM tag. However, it is not the norm to approach recordings that way these days, so again... people either love it or disagree with it completely.

**Personally, I love your SciFi approach reflected in the anime / manga style artwork, the band's name and the lyrics. What are your thoughts about varying this concept, in one or another way?**

All of that is typically up to Jim as he writes the lyrics and musical skeleton. Actually, he commissions artwork first immediately after he gets a concept and writes the music and lyrics inspired from the artwork. It's backwards, but it works for him. I think right now we are enjoying the concept album approach. We like stories.

**Live performances are difficult at the moment. Do you have plans to present *Only Time Will Tell* on stage whenever it'll be possible?**

That is the goal for late 2021. Some things are in the works for that. Touring schedules are so unpredictable right now with everyone.

**As I see, *Only Time Will Tell* will also be released in some very interesting Vinyl versions. Are you fans of Vinyl or was this a decision of your record label?**

I think a little of both. None of us are avid vinyl collectors, but I personally prefer them to CD's. I listen to vinyl at home and I'll stream music everywhere else. I think the label knows that many metal nerds love vinyl and insist upon making vinyl, so it's a mutual thing. Streaming is king right now, but making CD's and Vinyl are important for sales for sure.

**Do you want to risk a view to the future? Do you have any plans you may want to tell us about whatever's coming next from Contrarian, although it's currently difficult to plan anything?**

We are currently in the pre-planning stages of our next album. Artwork has been commissioned and our general concept is there. I think we'll keep trying new things and I'm excited to start on it when the timing is right.

**Do you want to address some words towards our readership?**

Thank you for your continued support and we can't wait to hear what you think of „Only Time Will Tell“.