
Attached you find the original Interview before the translation from English to German between Markus for Soundmagnet.eu and Tiago Costa from Eoten.

- ✓ **Markus (Soundmagnet): Hello and thank you for the interview. Eoten has members in Portugal, the UK and in Ireland. How do you manage to work together and collaborate on songs over these great distances? How does the recording process work for you?**

Tiago: Hello Markus! First of all, thank you so much for reaching out. Working with Eoten is surprisingly easy. It's much easier than many bands I've been in, where all the members could actually meet up to do stuff. We're all "big boys" as well as seasoned musicians and after we agreed on one direction we simply stuck to it. We talk on a regular basis and every time something comes up we discuss it and a decision is made. It's a really simple process without any drama. As for the recording, each of us has the means to record our parts from home, so we agree on a deadline and we get everything to Aaron Wilson (our guitarist and the one who started all of this) for mixing and mastering. Although, since the lockdown was lifted I've been recording my vocal bits at SC Studio here in northern Portugal, because the room isolation and quality of the microphones are far superior to whatever it is that I have at home!

- ✓ **In your songs, you tell a story about the Kingdom of Stone and the Golden Throne. Can you tell us what this story is about and how you came up with this lyrical idea?**

Well, Aaron and Jesse developed the concept. Before there was anything else, Aaron was working on the song "The Golden Throne" and that was the only story line we had, which basically was a bunch of people fighting for the right to claim the right to rule a place called the Kingdom of Stone. Then he started searching for members and when Jesse joined, he pitched a song idea without would later become Swords to the Sky, and with that came the idea to do a concept album and develop the story. We started piecing everything together, making sure that it made sense, and we ended up with a tragedy. It revolves around a Warrior whose kingdom falls and he flees with his men into exile. They get chased down by the one who usurped the throne, and between the fleeing and betrayal they finally take the Kingdom of Stone for themselves. Unfortunately all this darkness that they faced has seeped into the heart of the Warrior who has become a power drunk king. As his men strike him down he places a curse on them: he binds them to the Kingdom of Stone as servants for eternity so they can't flee, and awakens the mighty beast Eoten who will serve as a Warden to this eternal prison, because he's the only one who can destroy their bodies and souls. So the men either remain there forever or they fight the beast, risking oblivion.

- ✓ **You don't have a label behind you yet, but nevertheless there are guest musicians from, for example Alestorm, in your songs. How did you manage that?**

Aaron is a massive Alestorm fan and he did the unthinkable. He asked! He reached out to Elliot and asked if he'd be interested in doing a vocal part in a "black metal" section in one of our songs. We sent him the song and he really liked it! Then Covid hit, and it turns out that during the pandemic we all got extremely available with our time and Elliot was kind enough to do it. Off course, we thought that for that song we should get something special so we got Lasse Lammert (who's worked with Alestorm, Gloryhammer, Demons & Wizards etc...) to do the mixing and mastering, and we are very proud of how the song turned out. Not having a label only means that we have to be diligent and smart with our work and our resources, and so far I think we are doing fairly well.

- ✓ **In your latest music video “The Golden Throne”, fans from all around the world participate with short video clips they have sent to you. You seem to be very popular without having released an album yet. What do you think motivates people to take part in your call-outs and support you?**

That one was fun! It was a really cool idea but we didn't really expect a huge turnout. Maybe a few friends/family would do something but the reply was overwhelming and that's also very humbling for us. We are incredibly thankful for it! People seem to be passionate about our music and they've taken up the “Fight for the Kingdom of Stone” to a whole new level! Every single entry is very special and people got really creative, it's wonderful to see that! Plus, I suspect that with the lockdown and all, everyone was expecting a reason to run into the woods wielding weapons around.

- ✓ **You are very active in the FB-Group Folk Metal Grove and there you are also working as administrators. What motivates you to invest so much time in social media without being really rewarded for it?**

Yes, the Folk Metal Grove is an incredible group for folk metal bands, musicians and fans! We try to come up with ways to get all these incredibly talented bands in front of more people and get noticed!

As for Eoten, we started as a band in the Folk Metal Grove. But, I want to say that we are a band with members in 3 countries that's never played a gig and somehow we've landed a feature of a notorious folk metal musician, we got a video with the participation of wonderful people from all over the world (including Captain Yarrface from Rumahoy), right now I'm being interviewed by a Metal webzine from Austria, and we've done all of this without ever even being in the same room. This only goes to show that social media presence is vital in order to build an audience. And the simple fact that there were people willing to take up their recording gear into the woods and shoot clips to participate in a music video, is huge proof that all the time that was invested has actually paid off.

- ✓ **At the moment, it's not possible because of Covid-19, but as soon as it's possible again: Are you planning to play some live gigs?**

Absolutely! We want to book some shows. So far, we have a gig booked (if Covid allows it). We'll be playing a festival, HRH Vikings in Sheffield on the 4th of December of 2021. Come see us!

- ✓ **We are always searching for new good music in the Underground. Can you recommend us some lesser known bands we should listen to? Maybe from your hometowns?**

Off course! There are so many, it'd be a gigantic list, but you can go to The Folk Metal Grove on Facebook for that. For actual suggestions with Folk vibes check out **Iron Seawolf** (that features our amazing violinist Nick Wragg), **Firemage** (that features our keyboard master Ricardo Santos and myself), our good friends **Battle Born** and **Atorc**. For less/non folk vibes: **Moonshade** (melodeath), **Terminal Sun** (prog), **Nihility** (death), **Lyfordeath** (thrash/death), **The Small Hours** (doom).