

Attached you can find the original interview in english between **Adriana** for Soundmagnet.eu and **Anton** for Kauan:

Right into topic: April 9th will mark another milestone in your career as a musician, when Ice Fleet will be released. Are you already excited for this release, for your fans reaction, for the feedback in general?

Hi! Yes, of course, I'm thrilled to tell the new story with the new album! This is the most epic work I've ever done so far, it required a tremendous amount of effort. I'm more than happy with the result and really hope the listener will enjoy the music, art and game. Feedback from the first singles was terrific!

Ice Fleet describes a complete different theme about the north shore of the USSR. It is based on real letters, articles and events, and the album is divided into seven narrative chapters. Are you into history or is there a special impact on you? What inspired you to this?

Yes, I'm into history and always looking for rare dusty stories to tell. **Ice Fleet** is the one who went through the long journey from one who found the fleet to chief editor of the magazine who didn't publish this article and right to my hands.

Your last album was carried by an intense, beautiful calm and harmoniously mood compared to the albums before which were dramatic in their own way. Is Ice Fleet marking another return to this calming sequences?

Definitely not. Musical-wise it's a very well balance between heavy parts with "harsh vocals" and weaving textures of pianos, pads and clean guitars. **Kaiho** has been an experiment with a "soft" pole of my music. Can I write songs, not an opera? Can I explain sadness without using the most trivial palette with high gain guitars and screaming vocals? Hopefully, I did it well, and now it's time to use this experience in a new dimension.

There is beautiful merch announced. Can you already tell us more about what we can expect?

It's a t-shirt and a tote bag with a cover art print. Not much to tell here, really ^_(\ツ)_/^

There is kind of a role play attached to the album. Who had the idea for this? Are you into this theme?

Yes, it's my second biggest hobby at the moment. Since the Ice Fleet story is open-ended, I thought it's a good idea to give listeners a chance and experience the whole story with their own friends. Book provides all the rules and basics to start playing, and every group will get their own unique result at the end of the game. Exciting!

The already released Single Raivo is epic and i really love this song! It pains in the same way like Sorni Nai did. Can you draw direct parallels?

I'm a strong believer that it's a listener who draws parallels, my mission is done when I composed and record the tracks, and it's all up to you to judge and feel it. From the author perspective, I can say that this story been much less disturbing to experience. The state of the Ice Fleet story is half-legendary, with no proofs, no evidence, no photos of dead bodies or the fleet itself. So I was kinda telling the tragic legend, not channelling the pain of blood-freezing events.

I just have to ask: Where are you from? Russia, Ukraine or is it Estonia? Which country do you call your home?

I'm from Russia, from a distant place on a western border of Siberia, on a foot of the Ural Mountains. But indeed, I been living in Ukraine for almost 10 years and moved to Estonia recently. There is a place for two homes in my heart. The first one will always be where I grew up and where my parents are living, Russia is my one and only homeland. Another home where my family is – no matter name of the country or city, it is a place where my wife and cat are living at this particular moment.

All of them are politically strained countries. How do you handle this – do you feel something like this within the band or is it irrelevant for the art you create?

Right, absolutely irrelevant for the art I'm doing.

How did this strange pandemic days influence the creating process of Ice Fleet?

In a very good way, actually. Working from home gave me so much extra time to concentrate on music and composing process. Also, it affects production cost in both ways. In my particular situation, all studios I wanted to collaborate with have literally been closed, so I did a big part of recordings at home. From the other position, musicians in other countries (Russia, Finland and Ukraine) been forced to jump in studios and record their stuff there. In any case, I would say, covid been very merciful to Ice Fleet.

Is there any special event that happened during the creating process of the album? Anything extra ordinary funny, sad or dramatic you would like to share?

Hmm, if moving from one country to another counts as dramatic, then yes! I moved from Ukraine to Estonia right in the middle of composing **Ice Fleet**, so it was a significant event in my routine life. And since Tallinn is a harbour, it gave me a vast and totally new inspiration point.

I guess i have to come to an end with this questions. Anything you want to tell our readers?

Thank you for the questions and attention to my music. Stay safe!

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