

Attached you can find the original interview between Markus for Soundmagnet.eu and Rok, guitar player for Metalsteel, in English:

Hello and thank you for your time. Forsaken by the Gods is your seventh studio album and you've been a part of the European Heavy Metal Scene since approximately 20 years. Has your approach changed over the years and can your fans expect surprises on the new album?

Correct, we are celebrating our 20th anniversary this year along with our 7th studio release. The approach has changed of course. The recording was done simultaneously, we were recording all-together all the instrumental parts and then added vocal recordings and guitar solos plus additional instruments. This album contains some of the additional instruments that we never used before. We also trusted Bojan Pahljina from Studio RSL who was recording us and he gave some great ideas and that is why we credited him as a co-producer on the album. I can say it is a very creative album. The arrangements are really superb and also the production which was done by our vocalist and guitarist Beny is awesome. Through the years we learned to focus on our own creativity but also to trust the professional studio personnel and never be afraid to experiment in the studio. The songwriting process was done collectively and we really listened and played over every bandmembers ideas.

You recorded the album together as a band instead of recording each instrument and vocals one at a time. How was that for you and why do you think this way of working is rarely found nowadays?

The first time we tried with this approach was on the "This is your revelation" album. When we released a double live album 10 years ago and listened to it we realized that this kind of approach is working for us. So on our last 3 studio albums we were recording this way. It is the best process for bringing up our full energy and organic feeling that is for us really important part of metal music. Nowadays the approaches are different due to digitalization and because most of the people is home-recording. We tried that too, but it is unparallel to recording in a professional studio and doing it in an oldschool approach. But if you are doing it the way we did, you must play well and not focus just on your technical skills but focus on the energy among the band members.

The songs Fallen Brother and the instrumental Farewell are dedicated to Žiga Mrak, while Drop By Drop is dedicated to Alexi Laiho. That sounds like a serious engagement with loss and death. To what extent do personal fates influence you and your music?

Losing our dear friend Žiga who was also a big Metalsteel fan and supporter really hit us hard. I can say it was one of the hardest experiences in my life. We also played a song on his funeral and it was really intense... As for the musicians that influenced us – too many have gone in the last couple of years but that is just a part of being alive. That`s why we also

recorded a song entitled Death=Life on our new album. Most of the lyrics are about transience, about different perspectives on death and life.

In Dying Out, you depict depression and anxiety caused by a dying world with the textline "You can't escape as the virus overcomes". Is this song influenced by the pandemic or what is the story and message behind it?

It was influenced by current times we are facing. The world seems turned upside down, everything is changing. It is not the fear of the virus (such as corona) itself but the virus of the fake media, people bringing hate to each other. Our planet could have been a paradise but we are turning it into a sci-fi movie with a bitter ending... We made this song in Daša's (drummer) kitchen since we weren't able to use our rehearsal place because of the covid restrictions. It was made almost in one take and we really felt the proper vibe that the song and its message has.

You also seem to have a personal relationship with the Metaldays Festival. In 2015 you wrote the festival-soundtrack, in 2021 you performed at the scaled-down version called "Days of Solace". I was there and your show was awesome, by the way. The festival is now known and popular across all national borders. How did the relationship between Metalsteel and Metaldays come about?

Thank you, we really enjoyed playing on this year's edition. It was amazing to play for a proper crowd again instead of doing a livestream show. We also recorded a video (soon to be released) on this fest. Before Metaldays it was called Metalcamp and we also performed on the first edition in 2004 and since then played a couple of times on the fest and it was always amazing to perform there. Slovenia should be proud to have a festival like this but unfortunately it is moving on a different location in time to come, so we are gonna lose one of the best festivals in our country due to local policies.

Slovenia is not exactly known for its thriving metal scene, at least in Austria. How do you rate your local scene yourselves?

Too bad that it is not so known. Maybe because the country is so small and is hard to export some of the great artists. We have a lot of great bands here in different metal subgenres so you may check them out or do some research and I'm sure you're gonna be surprised how many quality bands we have regarding our small metal community. There is just lack of booking agents and labels who would be prepared to help the bands and export them abroad.

You have been in business for a long time. Do you have any tips for newcomers - what should young bands pay attention to?

Well...Everybody has its own path and destiny. I would say that you may never give up your dreams, always play from your heart and believe in your work. Be careful who you trust but when you find trustworthy people in the business, trust them 100% and give them credit and

treat them as part of your own. Never forget the ones who help you. Band members should be connected as a metal family and always show respect to other artists who are doing the best they can.

Once it is possible again, can we expect to see you live in Austria or Germany? Do you have any plans for a tour?

We played a lot in those countries with James Rivera (Helstar) as his support band. We would be pleased if we could return anytime possible since we always got great feedback from the metal community. We have to wait for this covid times to pass and then we will be able to hopefully perform in your beautiful country again.

Many thanks for the interview! The last words in this interview are yours.

We really appreciate your support and thanks for the interesting interview. As for the readers – we would appreciate if you check us out and show some support. Hopefully the global metal scene will recover from this covid era and we will be able to tour normally again. Until then support the artists, promoters, labels and everyone in the music business. Heavy metal will stay strong no matter what and I`m sure we are gonna bang our heads together in the near future again!

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