

Attached you can find the interview between *Markus* and *Sean* for **Osi and the Jupiter**:

Hello and thank you for your time. On your latest album *Stave*, you once again played all instruments yourself – except the Cello, which was played by your friend *Kakophonix*. How does the songwriting work for you? What do you start with, how do you decide if a song is ready or needs more elements.

I would usually start with a guitar riffs or a synth construction as well as percussion. After I would write lyrics and record. Last thing that is added is cello, I'll send my current song to Kakophonix and after he sends all stems to me to mix in. After that is where I add effects and everything else along with my full mix.

The info on *Stave* says it is influenced by the Appalachian forests of eastern Ohio. How can we imagine this influence? Do you go for walks in the woods, do you study the history of the region?

"Stave" means a wooden structure in a place of worship, as well as a musical staff. For this album the title is intended to mean a place of worship in nature that is guided by music on a spiritual level. I grew up very close to Appalachia in Pennsylvania to my east and Appalachia Ohio to my south, about an hour away both ways. I do hike a lot and spend as much time as possible in these places as well as other places on my travels. I consistently am learning more folklore and other things along my journeys.

Europeans usually associate neofolk music with Scandinavian bands whose songs deal with nature and ancient, sacred themes. Scandinavian mythology is not associated with the USA at first. Nevertheless, your music is in a similar vein. Do long-gone European myths play a role for you? If so, which one?

They definitely do, as well as other mythos. I'm not strictly set on one, but I'm very drawn to Scandinavian mythology, I'm studying more on Native American and Celtic at the moment, I would like to learn as far as the path is layed out.

Nature is now also a political issue. Fridays for Future, sustainable management, protection of the world's oceans - the list is long and usually a contradiction between human behavior and nature is postulated without naming it exactly. Do you also see a contradiction here, or how do you understand this comprehensive concept of "nature"?

Nature is the mountains, the oceans, the desert, the plains and the forests. Landscapes of awe and inspirational food for the soul through these places, animals that reside there and beings that dwell among. It may mean different things to different people, but this is my summary of this. Also nature is the will of the cosmic energies from life, death and rebirth.

Spirituality is another hot topic. Many people are turning away from traditional religions and instead seeking happiness in esotericism or other metaphysical concepts that are difficult to grasp. What does spirituality mean to you, are there differences between religion, spirituality and esotericism?

Spirituality is ones dedicated pathway and worship to a certain concept, element(s), lifestyle to help one's soul and being mold and grow. There are so many religions and believe systems that I think at the core connects in some ways, and also differs in some ways. I as well study some esotericism by meditation, creativity and life long searching and learning . I believe Spirituality is definitely connected to both these concepts in different ways, and some similar ways depending on how that individuals path is layed out for them.

Back to your music. It demands time and concentration from its listeners. This creates another contrast - on the one hand, the increasingly fast-paced world, on the other hand, a kind of musical counteraction. Occupation with oneself instead of constant distractions, so to speak. Conscious approach or simply result of your worldview and creative approach?

The music in this project is connected to my spiritual path, it inspires musically and spiritually and grows with me, and I'm still learning a lot along the way. It's also inspiring that it helps people in many different ways, and gets some more connected to nature again or back on track to what their goals in life are.

No one likes to hear this topic anymore, but unfortunately it will still be with us for a while: Covid-19 still strongly influences the lives of artists worldwide. How has the pandemic influenced your work and can you imagine coming to Europe for some gigs in the future?

I had some USA dates in the beginning of Covid that got unfortunately canceled due to the lock down, things the past few months have been picking back up fortunately. During the beginning of Covid I started recording a handful of covers as well as some new songs, so I did remain busy and I also still worked the whole time being I work with animals for a living. There are plans in process for Europe, we are shooting for next year so keep your eyes peeled, I really hope all pans out.

We are always looking for new music. Which bands from your home country can you recommend to us?

I listen to a lot of different music here are a few I can recommend. Wovenhand, night profound, Matt heckler, blood and sun, willie Watson, sun and moon dance, lotona odola, horse cult, crooked mouth, backworld, cradle of Judah, Vintergrav, S.E.R.P.E.N.T. to name a few. There are much more.

Someone doesn't know Osi and the Jupiter and would like to listen to some of the music. What songs would you recommend to start with?

Baldur, Fjorgyn, craft, wights, in death, folk of the woods. Most of our singles

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

Thank you for having me, I wish everyone the best of health and hope along the way you find what drives your soul and go out and experience life .

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