

Attached you can find the original interview between *Adriana* for Soundmagnet.eu and *Arve Isdal* for **DROTT** in english.

Thank you very much for your time answering some questions for our magazine. I guess you are pretty busy now as the release of *Orcus* is close. How are you with this amazing feedback that is already flooding the magazines online and offline?

Feels good. For us the album is already a success regarding the feedback we're getting. We were a bit curious if people would get into the narrative and the soundscape since *Orcus* lacks the traditional vocals and lyrics. It seems like people understand what we're trying to express and the images we make with each song within the concept. We worked a lot with the arrangements and the concept so it's nice when people appreciate and understand what we do.

You are creating a very special sound, you call it simply *Drott*. How would you describe this sound to a person who doesn't know *Drott*?

That's tricky. It's very ambient and a mix of many genres. I guess *Drott* is anchored in and around a sort of rock sound in the end. It's guitar, drums and cello but we try to use the guitar and the cello in unusual ways using different playing styles and a lot of effects and stuff. The whole album is played organic so what might sound like a synthesizer or bass is either a guitar or cello. We all have different musical backgrounds from metal to classic, pop, prog, jazz and even hip hop. This gives us quite a toolbox and a lot of opportunities. I think with the concepts and way of thinking we also have a folk approach. We are all fascinated by mythology and folklore.

I am really overwhelmed by what you do with your sound as a trio. Guitar, Drums and a Cello. This is not very common but creates a very unique soundscape. Was this the plan from the beginning when you created *Drott* in 2020?

Actually we have talked about starting this band since 2016 or so. I've known Ivar since high school and we played a lot together when we grew up. We always talked about doing something together again but as touring musicians we've just haven't had the time. I met Matias in 2015 and we started to hang out a lot. We talked about how cool it would be to play together and Ivar was the natural choice for a drummer. He's one of the best drummers I've ever played with, a good friend and also a great guy to hang out with. Of course we never found the time to actually rehearse and get started so it took us some years... My new year resolution in 2019 was that we got started with this band and we actually found some time in the Christmas Holidays right before 2020 so it looked like it finally was going to happen but then Ivar got sick so we started up in January 2020. All three hit it off from the first note!

You make atmospheric music, with influences of jazz, progrock, classic and metal, and you expose really brutal sounds to some extent. Where do you get the inspiration for your tracks from?

We always think images with our music. In each sonic experiment we want to enter a new room or landscape. Maybe it's our Norwegian heritage that inspires our choice of sounds. The nature in our part of the country may be categorized as brutal or dramatic at least. And beautiful.

Is the nordish culture, the associated spirituality and superstition something that (also) accompanies you as a private person?

Absolutely. I've always been into the dark stuff haha. Like old horror movies. Matias is deeply fascinated by mythology from all over the world. Spirituality is a red line in all of our released tracks so far.

While the track The Marauder is a real ride through hell you show a bright and tame side with songs like By The Lunar Lake and Arch of Gloom. Where do you take this ambivalence in songwriting from?

We don't think too much when we write, we just follow the ideas. We like to play with different moods and genres, light and darkness. If you have something shimmering and bright the darker tracks gets even darker. We also have a world class whistler in the band so we HAD to include a whistling track on the album.

How does the working progress on a song look like? Who is responsible in the band for the songwriting?

Most of the material is from the three of us just playing and jamming together. We just plug in and start to play with no ideas in mind. Then we work on the arrangements after on the ideas we like. Some of the songs like Grey Gull and Orcus are exactly like they were from the jam session and others we take a riff or melody and write them from there. Me and Matias have written some stuff but the main part of the material comes from us just jamming.

Orcus delivers a record diving deep into sonic, experimental landscapes, which I of course immediately ordered as vinyl in preorder. I think this is an album that grows while spinning the record. Are you yourself into records and can you agree or do you prefer a digital version for yourself?

We're old school and totally into the album concept. We are used to listen to music on vinyl. It's something special when you listen to an album as a whole and just zone out and focus on listening for an hour while looking at the cover artwork and get into the mood. I'm not against the whole digital thing and it's a great and easy way to discover and check out new music, but it's also so much easier to just skip songs and albums that don't immediately hook you in. I think albums that you might not get or fully understand the first time you listen through it but grows on you after the third and fourth time, also seems to be the albums that last the longest. Anyway, for me at least it will always be something special with a physical album that you actually have to put on your player

I must come to an end with this interview i guess. So i urgently need to know if any live shows are planned to present Orcus live in the near future.

We definitely want to play live soon but due to the whole covid situation we haven't planned anything just yet. We will try to set up a release show in our hometown Bergen later this year and go on from there.

Is there anything you want to let our german speaking readers know?

If you are into dark, atmospheric music and want to hear something a bit different, check out DROTT. Our debut album "Orcus" will be released September 24th .

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