

Attached you can find the interview between Patrick for Soundmagnet.eu and Lauren Hart for Once Human in the original version:

Hello Lauren. Thank you for your time and congratulations to your new great album. How does it feel, to release finally new material after such a long time since the last album?

I'm really happy that it's finally happening. It has been five years in between our albums and that's due to quite a few reasons. One being the pandemic but the other two where, I went on tour with Kamelot for two years and then Logan went on tour with Machine Head for the Burn My Eyes Reunion. And then when he came back, that's when the pandemic started. So that's why there is a big gap there. But we kept writing and a lot of those songs were written in the pandemic and the result is very angry music.

Sledgehammer was already released in 2019 and did not make it on the album in the end. What happened afterwards that delayed the album release for almost 2 years?

Because it was released such a long time ago and it was actually going to be the beginning of releasing a new album back then because we did have an album pretty much done back then. But then we got pushed back because of the pandemic and so than everything changed, the whole album changed. We kept rewriting stuff and the whole energy of the album got a lot darker. It wasn't as uplifting as before. Sledgehammer was written as soon as I was home from Kamelot and it was a completely different energy and we feel that we clashed. And point 2 Sledgehammer was released two years before the album so it felt wrong to include it you know. But I wish I could have asked a bunch of fans because it wouldn't have been a problem if they wanted it on the album. I guess we assumed that we have a video and a single and it was out everywhere you can download it. I assume that people wouldn't be upset but maybe I'm wrong.

The lyrics on **Scar Weaver** are about several different topics. How was your writing process here? What is your main statement you want to give with your lyrics?

You know, I approach each song with a fresh mind and a lot of times I have no idea of what I'm going to write about. I get inspiration from different things. You know a lot of times it comes from inner conflicts, a couple of times it comes from what happens outside in the world like Erasure was one that I discovered what the meaning of blood diamonds were and I forced myself to go into these rabbit holes and forced myself to read and watch things that I normally would not want to and I see things that I wish I could unsee but for the sake of wanting to understand fully everything before I put it into a song I do those deep dive rabbit holes. So that's Erasure was about Blood Diamonds. And Scar Weaver was very much me dealing with my negative thoughts and how they take over my whole body and there is a line in the song that's Scar Weaver sow the flesh on my fears. I don't know if

you've ever had these negative thoughts and they only ever exist in your mind and people tell you that's not real, it's only in your head. And you put so much energy into it that you actually give it a life and it starts making decisions for you, so you are putting flesh on it you are making it real, and it doesn't have to be. That's what Scar Weaver is about. And sometimes I'll be sitting down with the music, not knowing what I want to write, and I'll be singing just try to figure out melodies and words come out and I didn't plan these words. The music writes the words, it's really weird. Deserted happened like that – the chorus happened like that. The music made me say these words. And then I wrote the lyrics around the chorus. And this song is about people bringing your mistakes in your past back into your face to haunt you with and things you wish you could move on from and that you are sorry about and somehow the internet has a way digging things up and people in your family and your friends put in your face and never letting you forget and never let you become a different person. It's very preplant and happens to a lot of people nowadays.

I know this question is like asking a mother about her favourite child – but what is your favourite song on **Scar Weaver**?

My favourite song? I would have to say either Erasure or Only In Death. I like Only In Death because of the music more so than my vocals. I really love the music and then also the beginning of Bottom Feeder. That riff in the beginning of Bottom Feeder is one of my favourite things that Max ever wrote. So I love a lot of the musical pieces.

Your voice has a wonderful recognition value, and you already have a trademark sound that sets you apart. Which track challenged you the most vocally?

Cold Arrival. For sure. There are so many different voices in that song there. And it's also about a friend that died, so it also challenged me emotionally. But vocally it was quite a challenge as well. I found it difficult to write cleans over some of Maxes guitar melodies because his chords are quite dissonant, his timing is not exactly straight forward, and I found it quite challenging. I didn't know which notes would fit so there was a lot of trial and error and that was the big challenge in Cold Arrival.

On **Deadlock** you got featured by *Rob Flynn* from *Machine Head*. How did it come to this cooperation because it's not that usual that musicians start projects with members of their former bands?

Well, this is one of those things where I've learned that good things can happen in the worst of times because I don't think Rob Flynn would have had any time if it wasn't for the pandemic doing this with us so I'm really grateful for that. What happened was we had written most of the song. I had already written a chorus it was done. There was just some verse missing and an Intro missing and a bridge. So, we were thinking that Rob could do the Intro and maybe go back and forth with me in the verse. And we sent him the song and we didn't think he was going to do it because he never had done a guest speaker before at the time I think that's changed now but at the time we did not expect him to say yes but

he said he really love the song and he wanted to try something on it and we were excited I could not believe it and he sent the song back. And the chorus that I wrote was gone and his chorus was on there and oh my god his was so much better than mine. Mine is just in the rubbish, in the bin. I Hate it now; I can't listen to it now because his chorus is so much better than mine. He knows how to write those hooks and the only word he kept was Deadlock and after that we went back and forth on the verse, and I ended up doing the intro. We thought of his voice mostly because of that Nu Metal sort of bouncy vibe that the song has, we thought it would suit a voice like Robs and of course Logan and I we both admire Rob Flynn very very much, so we just took our chance and we asked him and he said yes. That's how it happened.

Are there further projects planned with *Machine Head*? Another tour for example?

Nothing's planned no. Because it's a little bit difficult right now I guess you know you can't really say there are any plans at the moment because usually things cancel or postpone. It's hard to say anything for sure but we are working on things.

Talking about tours – what are your plans for the near future, if the pandemic lets you finally play live again? Especially concerning shows in Germany or our homebase Austria?

Well, we dig it lucky. We just got on a tour with Cradle Of Filth and Rob Flynn got on stage, and we sing Deadlock together and we did Davidian together and that was incredible. So, the thing with touring is it's happening, and we do have plans. It's lots of talk with going overseas. We need to go to Germany; we need to go oversea because we have not been there since our first album with Fear Factory and that is a very long time. To long because I really think Europe is the most important for us. And I love Germany and I'm trying to learn German. Es ist immer noch schlecht aber ich probiere es aus. I don't know how different it is to the Austrian dialect. I don't know if its the same.

No I think you won't understand a word if I talk in my dialect.

OK (laughs) but I do love Germany and I do wanna try it out as much as possible. Ist just a matter of the world letting us right now and if everything openings up again. I know there is talk about this year going oversea so we will see.

One story I read recently – you originally found Once Human as a guitar player. Is that true?

Yes!

Wow, so why don't you play guitar anymore?

Because I'm not good. I think there was a bit of shock value back then. That's how that whole thing started – I uploaded a couple of videos playing a crappy guitar on a crappy amp and put it on the internet. The style I was playing was speed picking, a lot of fast riffs but I don't think it was great. And the reason I'm not great is I was self-taught so I learned a lot of bad habits. Such as when I'm not speed picking I have to down pick everything. And reason two is I always played sitting down with my little 8 Track recorder so I Can't play standing up. And another problem is because I played always by myself, whenever I get in front of people i get nervous and my hand shake. So, I'm not good. I don't know if you heard that I was great but I'm not. I did write a lot of riffs on the first album, and I did play on the first album, but I don't think unless I kept practicing every single day I don't think I would play on stage – maybe one day I will play like one song but I really love singing, I really love singing. I enjoy to be a part of the writing process of the music but again I enjoy putting my heart and my soul into growing myself as a singer because I even was not a competing clean singer in the beginning I didn't wanna sing clean and now since joining Kamelot I got a lot more confident in that and really grow in my skills there. One thing at a time for me, I think.

Last question: The three albums you take with you to a lonely island?

Blackwater Park by Opeth, Dimmu Borgir – Puritanical Euphoric Misanthropy and anything by Alice in Chains.

Any closing words for our readers?

I really hope to come to Germany soon, das ist mein Lieblingsland der Welt and I appreciate all of our fans for listening and reading and I hope you enjoy Scar Weaver.

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