

**Congratz for this stunning album you recently released. Traight into my questions: Since here in Austria some do not know you yet, we would be pleased about a short introduction. How did the idea to found Vorbid come about?**

**Michael**

Vorbid came about in 2013. I played drums actually in other bands, but primarily being a guitar player I wanted to start a band on my own. I got Marcus onboard, who was the only drummer I knew who could play thrash, and two other guys on bass and guitar. Nobody wanted to sing, so I took that job. Eventually they quit and we got Daniel on lead guitar in 2014. That has been the core of the band ever since. We've had a couple of bass players until Hans Jakob joined earlier this year.

**When exactly did you start the writing process for A SWAN BY THE EDGE OF MANDALA and was it the intention from the very beginning to make a concept album?**

**Michael**

After "Mind" was sort of labeled a concept album by mistake (or our ignorance to really see that it wasn't) I think we figured we wanted to try to make a proper concept album this time. "The Lamb Lies Down on Broadway" by Genesis and "Metropolis Pt.2" by Dream Theater were heavy influences in that regard. This time Daniel wrote all the lyrics, which I felt was not only needed to keep the lyrics cohesive, but also because my lyrics tend to be kind of shit, haha. It helps having a good lyricist in the band and Daniel is that for sure.

The album deals with fear, which probably affects the human psyche like hardly anything else. Did the Corona pandemic also have an influence on the content of the concept here and how do you deal with your fears in general?

**Daniel**

The inspiration for the concept came back in 2018-2019. I fell into a bit of the ol' psychosis and it got me good. The fear of waking up from my own life, and not being able to communicate my emotions left an impression. I had not felt fear or distress in that way before, so I thought it would be a good basis for a concept album. Although the pandemic didn't fuel any inspiration, it did give me some extra time to write the actual lyrics.

**Your style has become even more progressive compared to your debut album Mind. I described it in my review as if Steven Wilson would play thrash metal. How would you describe your kind of music and what is the meaning of progressive metal for you?**

**Michael**

And thanks for that. We are not worthy! To me it really doesn't matter if our music is progressive or technical at all. It just so happens that progressive and technical music is what we are drawn to. Progressive metal is more of a genre than a musical philosophy nowadays. Vorbid's sound today leans more towards progressive metal in terms of the genre, but in terms of our own discography I like to think that Vorbid is progressive in moving forward musically.

**Jakob became a permanent member only after the album was finished. How was the work and did he also contribute ideas for the songs?**

**Michael**

Hans Jakob as you mentioned joined the band after the album was done, so he didn't contribute to any of the songs or the recording, unfortunately. He's a top notch musician, so I can't wait to work with him on future records!

**You have also been playing around with new sounds. With bands like Rivers of Nihil or White Ward, the saxophone is already an elementary instrument. On Self you could hear a saxophone solo too. What motivated you to do this and why this instrument of all instruments?**

**Michael**

Starless by King Crimson. I rest my case. Daniel?

**Daniel**

Hehe, yes definitely Starless, although The Pin Drop by Steven Wilson and Shine on You Crazy Diamond are up there too.

**I love the musical theme of your album. At the moment I can't help but humming it at every opportunity. How did this theme develop, can you give us an insight into your work here?**

**Michael**

I'm not sure if I'm entirely sure I understand the question, but I'll try. We do have one melody that keeps coming back. It's in the opening song "Ecotone". The song fades in with that melody reversed. After the first riff we go into this 5/4 section where the melody is repeated, this time it is not reversed. It comes back as the opening riff to the last song "Self", but in a different key and slightly varied. That melody also fades out the album. Our idea was that the album could be played in a loop with this melody

connecting it, since the story of the album repeats itself at the end. It's also nice to have recurring themes on a concept album. Maybe Daniel can elaborate on that...?

**Daniel**

Well yeah, not much I can add. We're both into the old British prog classics. One of the ways they made concept albums connect instrumentally was to leave recurring themes like we did here. They are instrumental signatures and themes that make you remember that it's all one story without having read the lyrics. I guess...

**What song melody is currently creating this earworm effect for you?**

**Michael**

The opening melody from "I Am The Black Wizards" by Emperor is a good one. "Behind The Lines" by Genesis as well.

**Daniel**

The X-Men Theme

**You probably can't wait to go on tour. When can you be seen on tour in German-speaking countries? Especially we as the Viennese Metal Magazine would like to know of course, is there a concert in Austria planned?**

**Michael**

At the moment, no. But we will try to get our asses out of Norway by 2023.

**Speaking of live gigs. Do you have a very special gig in your short band history in mind?**

**Michael**

Opening for Leprous in our hometown back in September of 2021. That was huge. And sharing the stage with Annihilator at Wacken back in 2017 doesn't hurt.

**Can you name the musician(s) that inspired you the most?**

**Michael**

Dave Mustaine, Chuck Schuldiner, Peter Gabriel, Mikael Åkerfeldt, Robert Fripp.

**Daniel**

Peter Gabriel, Mikael Åkerfeldt, Dave Mustaine. I swear I tried to pick differently, but Michael and I have known each other for a long time.

**Finally, I would like to stay with your favorite musicians. If you could build a super band, which musicians would be your material here and what style of music would be played?**

**Michael**

Paul Masvidal on guitar, Mikael Åkerfeldt on vocals, Rick Wakeman on keyboards, Marco Minnemann on drums and Les Claypool on bass. This is a weird band, haha! I dont know, maybe a mix of death metal and early 70s fusion.

**Daniel**

Peter Criss (post 2000s) on drums, Frank Zappa on vocals, Jordan Rudess on Keys, Billy Sheehan on bass, Buckethead on guitar and Spinal Tap being head production. It would neither be super nor a group, but by God I would pay to see it.

(...)