

## **Full Un-edited interview with OoV by Rudi @ Rock Tribune Magazine**

**The band's introduction in the biography is, as opposed to a lot of other artists bio's, quite true, I believe. It's been some time since I heard a truly 'alternative' rock band, but I really enjoyed hearing your music as it brought back memories of the early nineties rock scene. Obviously, there are similarities with Alice In Chains and Soundgarden but you also tread musical waters with (vintage) Queensrÿche and King's X. And to finish the comparisons, you remind me most of all of two excellent nineties band from Sweden, Mental Hippi Blood and Eleven Pictures, I wonder if you ever heard about these acts.**

**Leigh:** First off Rudi, thanks ever so much for the compliments and giving us the chance to feature in Rock Tribune! Secondly I love Eleven Pictures – a great band, 'Flowerland' is one of my fav albums from the nineties you're the only person to ever mention them and I see it as a really cool compliment! All the aforementioned bands feature heavily in my collection apart from Mental Hippi Blood! Of course I'll be checking em out!

**Aynsley:** That's cool you should pick up on the bands you've mentioned - I love AIC, Soundgarden, Kings X and have been known to see Queensrÿche back in the day!

**What is not clear to me is if Order Of Voices is now the main project, or just one of many, since some of you are also in other bands.**

**Leigh:** Order Of Voices is definitely my priority at the moment, I love this band! I also sing for Rise To Addiction signed to Mausoleum but we're in a quiet rebuilding time right now so Order Of Voices has my full attention! With something this creative it has to be that way...

**Aynsley:** I can only echo Leigh here and say that for me, Order Of Voices is number one priority. I've been searching for musicians like Ian, Ash & Stefan for years! I'd already found Leigh some eight years ago....now I have the band in place that I've always heard in my dreams.

**Ian:** It has to be everyone's priority really, its received so many great reviews and gained interest that we feel this project really has legs and the potential to reach a large audience. Plus it's the most enjoyable band I've played in, especially as it all seems to flow so naturally.

**The most alternative aspect of your music, I believe, is the way the songs are written, the manner in how the build-up of it is done. How are the songs written and arranged? Is it by jamming or is there already a preconceived idea of a song before you start to rehearse?**

**Leigh:** From a vocal point of view I work with either jammed songs or demos of a high quality, either way I work on the melodies first and they shape the words, I have preconceived ideas about themes for the songs but no words before melodies. I've worked very closely with the guys to make sure every line has the emotion and delivery we want.

**The album is produced by Stefan and Ash (that's why the guitars are so upfront – only joking). The very open sound gives the music breathing space and makes every instrument (drums and bass included) very audible (those hi-hat accents during the first minutes of 'Burn Black Light' – delicious, and the guitar lead and riff during the instrumental part – very inspired). Both of you seem to have a lot of experience to produce an album, no?**

**Ash:** Thanks for the compliments, it took us almost 9 months of intensive hours to get it exactly the way we wanted it. We're very particular about all aspects of the music and we decided that producing it ourselves would give us the control we needed to make the album that we envisioned.

**Stef:** Prior to recording this album, we had both been running our own studio but this album was still a huge learning curve!

**Ian:** We all spent a lot of time discussing what this album would be and how best to translate it musically. There was a lot of trial and error, and we all had a lot of input; the end product being a well thought-out and hopefully pleasing album.

**The guitar work, especially during the more ethereal melodies/leads sometimes reminds me of more (new) wave related acts like Joy Division, The Sound, The Cure, Placebo, even Editors. Anyone of you with a fondness of that genre?**

**Ash:** We have a huge range of musical tastes within the band, and we try to draw influence from many genres, including the ones you mentioned, it's great that you've picked up on all these.

**Another great part of Order Of Voices (well, it's in the name) is the use of the vocals, whether it is Leigh's voice or the use of vocal melodies ('What I Breathe' has an unbelievable intro and the female vocals are fitting). You're not that young, so I was wondering how you (and the rest of the band as well) remained unnoticed with such a voice (and such obvious talent). Or has it something to do with the sorry state of rock music in Britain?**

**Leigh:** Hehe! Who knows! I've achieved a certain amount of success with Rise To Addiction and before that Ninedenine as well as a few near misses that it seems every musician has a tale of! I think the British music scene is very tough, there's not much money in it which means bands disappear very quickly or get disheartened and move to new projects. I don't think there are many short cuts to be honest, Europe is a much better, bigger market and I've only ever been treated with great respect when playing!

Thanks for the great compliment about my vocals, I'm constantly trying to push the boundaries of my voice and keep improving, hopefully the work we've put into this album won't go unnoticed!

**I do like interesting lyrics (but nobody matches those of Neal Peart), and I became very intrigued by what you're singing about. At first sight it's about human relationships, but it's got a dark psychological/philosophical haze hanging over it, and they seem to be linked together. Is that something that you like to explain or do I need to make my own?**

**Leigh:** The themes covered in the songs relate to the human condition really, they touch on love, hope, desolation, longing, determination, forgiveness...I like people to take the lyrics and take their own meaning from the songs, and I'm always very interested to hear people's interpretations, I always make a real effort with the lyrics as I want them to almost be able to stand alone without the music and still be a thought provoking enjoyable read.

**This album has been released by the band without any help from a label. Do you want it to stay that way or are you trying to ink a deal; What are the advantages/disadvantages of DIY?**

**Leigh:** In a nutshell we'd like to ink a deal, it's only a matter of money really, touring and distribution. DIY everything has to be funded by the band, being signed you would hopefully have some money at your disposal to be able to tour with advertisement and know your album is being distributed to shops and made widely available online! The disadvantages of being signed are that you have to trust your label to do this work! Most musicians are control freaks so it's a difficult decision!

**This one's for Aynsley, whatever happened to Hardware? I did the review of the mini, interviewed Martin (bass player), saw you live and got your signature while you were supporting Amorphis in Belgium in 1996.**

**Aynsley:** I remember you! Nice of you to remember! Hardware unfortunately ground to a halt about a year later. A lot of bands on the same label as us got swept off the roster-including us! The label couldn't afford all the bands plus financing the forthcoming Depeche Mode album at the time. We made it back over to Italy for a festival in 1997 but this ended up being our last gig. I've only got good memories of Hardware and it was a big lesson for me.

### **Can you live from what you're doing musically, or have all of you got a day job?**

**Aynsley:** All of us have to work at this stage as we're unsigned and quite a new band. We pride ourselves on getting the best gear we can afford so we have to work for it....unfortunately!

**Leigh:** Full time musician is always the goal but without good solid label backing its very difficult to get by unless you supplement your income, so many bands who you assume are full time aren't and are constantly playing a juggling act between their music career and having to work.

### **Do you consider your music as something artistic, entertainment or both?**

**OoV:** It's both! We love being creative and getting the most out of ourselves recording and writing but ultimately we love to play live.

**Ian:** For me it's an 'Essential', an outlet for some feeling or a chance to reflect on others. I couldn't imagine a life that is unaffected by music, it must be very dull.

### **Rebellion against the main society was one of the origins of rock 'n' roll in the 50's. How do you consider rock 'n' roll nowadays an where do Order Of Voices fit in?**

**OoV:** We don't go out of our way to make ourselves alternative nor do we attempt to be commercial to please the masses. We always try to be sincere in whatever we do and the music we create is what we all like, want to play and what we hope people can relate to. So much music nowadays seems to be contrived, so maybe our rebellion is that we don't want to be associated with that.

### **What was your motive to become a rock musician?**

**Leigh:** It was seeing Bon Jovi in 1986 as a young kid! It was my first gig, I went with my Dad and it absolutely blew my mind!

**Aynsley:** My inspiration to be a musician was seeing Buddy Rich in concert in 1986. There was only one instrument for me after that baptism of fire!

**Stefan:** I think it was Satriani's Surfing with the Alien. I played Classical guitar since i was 10, and that was my inspiration to switch to electric!

**Ash:** My parents have an incredible taste in music. I was exposed to a huge range of stuff since being born. It was always pretty obvious that music was a big part of me and my upbringing and going down this route was a natural progression.

### **Since you're a Sheffield based band any Wednesdayites or Blades fans in the band?**

**Leigh:** I'll leave that to the Sheffield based lads, I support Huddersfield Town for my sins!...I've played for years mainly as a goalkeeper, music's always been my priority tho!

**Aynsley:** I might upset some people here but I have no time at all for football. I see it as a pointless distraction from listening & playing music! Haha!!!

**Ash:** None of us are particularly 'footiemad' hehe, like Ayns said, too many adolescent years spent in my bedroom to leave room for football. Playing music of course ;)

**Ian:** no football loyalties or interest to speak of, too busy playing music!