

## **FLYING CIRCUS: Rock Music is Art**

Their music is tied to the sound and spirit of the seventies and strives for constant further development. The progressive hard rockers Flying Circus look back on their 30-year history and already have new projects in their sights.

Since its inception, the band, which was founded thirty years ago in Grevenbroich, has pushed the boundaries of their music into experimental spheres. However, the emotional content of the songs has remained: accomplished hard rock beyond the standards, combined with progressive parts and folk elements. The band's latest album documents this revealingly with new recordings of selected pieces from all creative phases.

"A simple compilation of songs actually contradicts our artistic ethos, because apart from the debut we always pursue a certain kind of concept. As with a regular album, every element that is contained in our previous albums and songs should be found here in a homogeneous mix again", explains singer Michael Dorp, who describes himself as a music fanatic and is influenced by bands like Queen, Led Zeppelin and Deep Purple.

One of the oldest songs is represented with the acoustic remix of the melodically compact "Follow The Empress" (in the version of the EP from 2013, originally from the debut Seasons, 1997). On the other hand there is the specially written "Dystopia", which musically follows on seamlessly from the last studio work "1968", which reflected the bloody events of 1968 and which is quite gloomy. "The pandemic for a whole year, then the pictures of the storming of the Capitol in the USA - twenty years ago we would have considered such scenes a dystopia; now we are experiencing it. Or George Floyd: It's all about breathing. It's getting more and more difficult to breathe freely. Repressions are spreading. We are seeing more and more autocrats all over the world who want to reshape societies. For me, the pandemic is also symbolic of the state of the world", explains the 52-year-old.

In terms of time and music, these pieces form the two opposite poles between which the band, founded by Dorp (vocals) and Michael Rick (guitar), oscillates. Drummer Ande Roderigo and keyboardist and violinist Blömer joined the group after the original six-member formation broke up in 2010. With both of them, the band has gained considerably in professionalism and virtuosity, praises the front man. Above all, the studied composer Blömer, who also writes orchestral works and "nouvelle musique", represents "an extreme expansion. We have become even more experimental. Classic rock is of course in our DNA, but will surely continue to incorporate elements of Gentle Giant or King Crimson", explains Dorp. "Three years ago, 1968 was the initial spark to find our new band sound. When recording at the Dierks Studios the whole band was firing on all cylinders!", says Dorp, who is still enthusiastic, and for whom rock music is an art form. Just like his colleagues, he attaches great importance to developing songs and concepts as a collective, coordinating arrangements and recording the music together as a band.

"I think it's incredibly important that you can hear a group playing together. Artistically, we are all rooted in the analogue age and want to preserve as much of the classic spirit as possible. There is a reason why the albums from the late sixties to the early eighties sound the way they sound. Because that's how the bands worked at that time. Dark Side Of The Moon, for example, is so rounded, the interaction is perfect that you can just try to emulate something like this. We like to take on the digital possibilities of editing, but having the analogue layer on the console when recording is just awesome - you have to be deaf not to hear it."

Amir Shaheen, ROCKS 03/2021