



Sofia Talvik is probably the most mentioned name at hallowed.se during 2011 with her three EPs reviewed and four EPs interpreted by metal bands in their own way. Sofia herself might not fit the frame of our medium on her own but thanks to the metal project she will at least temporarily do so. We at Hallowed were obviously interested and amused by her music so it came as a natural thing to ask her some questions.



Images in this spread by Gustaf Waesterberg



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Sofia explains that she is what you call a singer-songwriter with four albums to bolster about and a new one coming in January 2012, also that she has been touring in the USA several times and amongst others played on bigger festivals like Lollapalooza and SxSW. It is also American music that inspires and in medias she is compared to singers like Joni Mitchell and Joan Baez.

- I play the guitar and sing, which is basically all I do. I write everything myself and produce

most of it myself as well, she explains.

It was thanks to the fact that we often get to hear softer versions of metal songs that Sofia had the idea to turn that around which is not as common, sure we have heard Pet Shop Boys' *It's a Sin* in many metal versions but as Sofia states it is not particularly common and especially not in the way she has put it together.

- I thought that one has heard many soft versions of metal songs through the years but never the opposite. I thought it would be fun to see if my songs could get another character, but I could not do it myself so I hired four metal

bands whom I thought had quite different styles between them to get the biggest spread of the results. I have made a completely remixed version of one of my albums where many different bands and DJs remixed my songs so twisting and turning my music is not entirely new to me.

A metalhead she is not however, Sofia Talvik even if she has listened a bit to Metallica and such over the years and also listened a bit to punk rock in her teens she mainly laughs when that question is asked and says she does not want to call her a metalhead.

### L.O.V.E vs H.A.T.E

'L.O.V.E' is what Sofia's series of EPs is called and she describes it as follows:

- 'L.O.V.E' is a quartet of 3ps, where each EP contains three new songs and a remake of one of my old songs. The guys in my band has produced one 3p each which has made them quite different between them, one is a bit of electronica while another one is more country etc. The entire project is besides that fan financed which means that my fans has paid for the recordings by preordering the releases, t-shirts and other stuff I have made exclusively for each EP.

'H.A.T.E' are cover versions of Sofia's EPs where each one is alike even if the three first letters for name are different. She used the social medias to find the four bands for the metal versions.

- I started by looking through facebook to find metal bands and got a lot of tips. There I also found G.A.I.N and Ball of Mayhem. It would have been fun to have more girl bands but it seems quite difficult to get in contact with them. The guys were much more on the offensive but I am happy that I got Akribi who are fronted by Jessica. Badmouth is probably otherwise the one of the bands that was most known beforehand

and that has been visible in the number of reviews and such.

- Couldn't be happier, it is so cool to get to hear my songs this different from the originals, says Sofia of the results that we all now can hear now that all parts have been released.

The best thing according to Sofia is that the bands have had such different styles although she would have wanted that more hard rock and metal blogs and magazines should have written about the project as it is such a unique project and she thinks that the bands has done a great job recording and everything.

Sofia also thinks that the bands



Photo Jonas Westin

have done well in their interpretations of her songs, that they have managed to make their own thing with them and not just a poor copy.

- The intention was that it shouldn't sound like metal ballads and it didn't but they have still managed to keep the essence of my melodies I think, so there are still similarities to be heard.

But which one is the best? it

depends on what kind of music one prefers but Sofia says that she prefers 'H.A.T.E' as she is not singing on those songs. She does not want to select a favourite as she thinks they are so different that it will be very difficult to chose a single favourite.

#### **Press and the Future**

The reception might have been slightly less enthusiastic than So-

fia had imagined, maybe people haven't quite understood the project entirely since it is a bit different to what people are used to.

- But we have gotten some great reviews, *Badmouth* for example got 10/10 from "Rocknytt". Of course I would have wanted more attention but I hope it will continue to spread further as people discover one of my 3ps or one of the metal Eps and finds the

rest from that.

In our reviews we have called for a double album release but according to Sofia there is no market for such things anymore, maybe she is underrating the metalheads as buyers or maybe she has a point in that digital is the way to release music in today's diminishing record industry and Sofia explains that it is the way she mostly aims to release her

music but not always.

- However, I will release an album with the songs from 'L.O.V.E' recorded more homogenous and produced by me in January. It will be like the third and final part of the project.

An album that gives a sense of "Twin Peaks" if we see to the title which is 'The Owls are not What They Seem', it might be something for you readers to look

into and give a chance.

That means that the project might not be entirely finished but if we look back and look at the two EP-projects, which one was the finest?

- The funniest thing has been to meet the different metal bands. I was doing a guest appearance for *Badmouth* during the release show for the EP and realised I was not made for singing metal.

<http://www.sofiatalvik.com>



Photos on this spread by Jonas Westin



It sounded awful but they were really good!

Besides the knowledge that she isn't a particularly good metal singer, Sofia has also learnt that there is more job than one might think.

- I thought I only should leave a few songs and then they would come back as metal versions and they did but it was a lot of work to pick the right bands for the project.

But she dis work on her

L.O.V.E-project simultaneously which might explain why it was a little more work, Sofia also explains that she would have wanted to assemble all the bands for a smaller festival but didn't quite manage to find the time to make it happen.

Now when this projects nears its conclusion the next logical question becomes what is going to happen next and Sofia says that she just have started a two year tour of the USA for which

she have gotten herself a motor-home which she goes around and visit places to play. The bookings happens on route and the days when she is not playing she is doing office work by the computer. Nothing star spangling and large she also adds about the tour.

- It is not particularly glamorous but we meet a whole lot of interesting people and gets to see incredibly much of the USA.

Sofia also explains that she thinks it would be fun to do an-

<http://music.sofiatalvik.com>

other metal project in the future but also realises that she is not a good metal singer, which is why she has no idea about how such a thing would work in reality. She also points out that her songs seems to be working really well even in metal costume.

And with that I ran out of ideas and questions which means that I leave the last words in this article for Sofia to make after I thank her for the time she has set aside for answering our questions and

by that also given herself a little more attention in the metal press.

- I think that everyone should visit and support all the participating bands by buying their records on iTunes or through <http://music.sofiatalvik.com> where the entire project is available and you can listen before buying.

Image below: cover of the upcoming album

