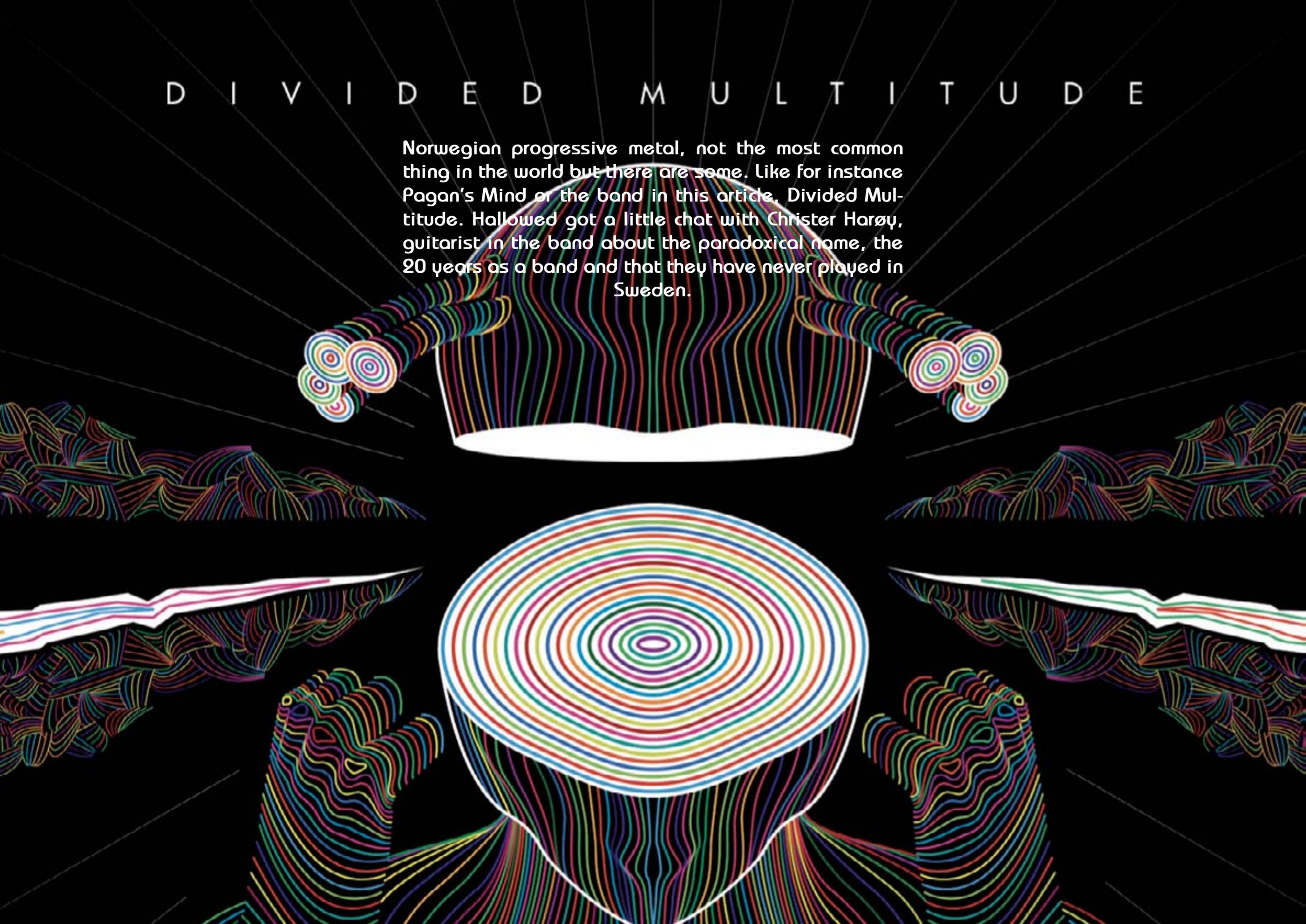


# D I V I D E D M U L T I T U D E

Norwegian progressive metal, not the most common thing in the world but there are some. Like for instance Pagan's Mind or the band in this article, Divided Multitude. Hallowed got a little chat with Christer Harøy, guitarist in the band about the paradoxical name, the 20 years as a band and that they have never played in Sweden.



WRITTEN BY: DANIEL KÄLLMALM  
PHOTOS BY: ERIK PAULSEN  
PUBLISHED ON: 2016-01-18

It all started about 20 years ago, 1995 to be more precise and the first album saw the light of day in 1999. Another album followed that and then their record company at the time went bust which forced the band to start over. Christer also explains that they changed drummer at the same time, which led to a very long break and the next album hit the shelves in 2010. Following the 2010 release "Guardian Angel" they toured with Manticora from Denmark and in 2013 the (by us) celebrated "Feed on Your Misery" album saw the light of day and in December 2015 they relea-

sed their self titled album **Divided Multitude**.

- We made it a bit fast this time since we celebrated 20 years and wanted to get it out before the end of the year, Christer explains 20 years as a band is a long time to work together one might think but according to Christer it feels very good.

- We work together very well; we are an old gang of friends that have stayed together for a long time so it is fun. I think that it may even be more fun now that we are more established and gets better possibilities and gigs.

And during these 20 years the band has learnt many things like things around management, book and other things around the profession of being a musician.

And Christer suppose that they still learn new things

- The experience of touring with others is good experiences as one learns from how they do things. We have been doing many things with Triosphere and we have learnt a lot from one another

It is not only teachings that are accumulated during 20 years as a musician with tours and everything, it is also memories of events during these years. The first record deal is a thing Christer describes as very special but also many gigs and festivals.

- We got to play Prog Power in The USA and that was very special since it was something we had wanted to do for many years so to finally do it was great fun.

Now we only hope for Sweden Rock

They were also touring with Fates Warning following "Feed on Your Misery", one of the biggest and most influential progressive metal bands out there. A band that Christer describes as very competent, friendly and down to earth

- It was always much people at the shows so it was great fun, and it was also great because they are a favourite band of ours. It was really great to follow them on tour

Christer describes Fates Warning as one of their biggest sources of inspiration.

### **Divided Multitude**

Besides Fates Warning Christer says that there are no particular bands that inspire them that much, they listened to all kinds of rock and metal music so it is probably a mix of everything, he thinks.

- The keyboardist (Eskild Kløften) is a huge Slayer fan, then it bands like Anathema, Opeth,

Dream Theater, old classics like Black Sabbath, Rainbow, Dio, Ozzy, Iron Maiden, Saxon and of course Rush. If you mix all that in a big pot I think you'll get us.

A multitude of bands where he also has to add Pantera and speaking of multitudes, divided multitude is a bit odd, a bit paradoxical and Christer explains that exactly that is the idea.

- The idea was that it would be a paradox because if one divides a multitude it will no longer be a multitude.

And **Divided Multitude** is exactly what they call the new album,





it was released in December 2015 and it is an album the band is very pleased with

- We worked hard and intensively during a short period of time, we started recording in August. When we recorded the first five songs we finished writing the last five. It was a very intense period, very tough but also very good

When recorded the album was sent to Jacob Hansen for mixing just like it was the last time around but there the similarities in the process compared with the previous album ends since this album was a bit differently made than the previous albums

when they used much more time to finish the albums. They made the same work in a considerably shorter time period, explains Christer. And he does not think that the more intensive creative process has damaged the quality, he thinks that this album is more dynamic and it spans over a wider spectrum than before.

- It has the classic Divided Multitude sound but maybe a bit more diverse than before and we have guest vocalists in Brian Ashland from Shadow Gallery and Terje Harøy from Pyramaze, they make one song each.

Brian Ashland they got to know in 2010 when they made two

shows with Shadow Gallery and they again met during Prog Power Europe in 2013 where they agreed that Brian would be a guest on the upcoming album.

But is this album better than its predecessors

- It feels like this now but it is a bit difficult to say that as close to the album.

Any favourite song?

- It varies a little bit; at the moment it is *Sacrificed* because it has a good drive and great riff. I also like *Proud*, *Demise* is another one I enjoy listening to and the first track *Immortal* is great as well, a bit different in a way.

He simply appreciates the en-

tire album, what he likes the best is probably down to what kind of day it is.

### Touring

With some big tours behind them Christer and Divided Multitude hopes that they will have a tour for this album as well, perhaps a bit of a anniversary tour.

- Yes, we are hoping for a Norwegian tour this spring and hopefully a European tour in autumn and we are crossing fingers to play many festivals this summer. We want to play as much as possible as we like to get out and meet people and have our music reach as many people as possible.

Many bands claim that playing live is the best, some (like Arjen Lucassen) hate playing live, Christer thinks they are both great but that it might be just a little better to play live.

- It gives a little bit more direct kicks and spontaneous and immediate response and recording album is exciting in another way as you can never really be sure about how it will be received. When one records an album it is easy to be subjective towards the songs as you play them so many times that it is difficult to know if they are good

Does one grow tired of the songs as one is working with

them in the?

- Yes, if one does many takes on the songs it is easy to, so always when one finishes an album one needs a little break from it. I have not really listened to our albums for a few weeks now.

To return to the live playing, Divided Multitude as a live band is described as something energetic, a band that tries to get as much energy out in as short a time as possible. But it is not just energy but also the band's melodic touches that are quite obvious when one listens to the band's live shows.

- We have many harmonies in the vocals as we have four guys

doing harmony vocals that might be the most obvious you hear. We are very tight, none of us is a fantastic musician but together we are very strong

So it is something of an experience to see a show with Divided Multitude?

- I think so.

And do you get good reactions from the crowds?

- Most of the time I think we get that but it depends a little of where we play. At a festival where maybe 80 bands play we might not get the best response. But at smaller festivals it is usually very good. But it is probably best at own tours where people come to see you or any of the other bands you play with while they might not really plan to see you on festivals

In other words they both have advantages, it se best with festivals to meet new people and fans while the best response might be had by seeng the band on a regular tour. So, you have to check out the band's websites to learn when you can experience the band on stage

### Reactions

"So far so good" says Christer about the response for the new album has been so far.

- We have gotten a very good response and it may have been good to have two ballads this time considering that we have not had any during these 20 years before, so it is probably about time. We have a very good promo agency from Germany that spreads our music and the response we have gotten this far has been very good, we hope that the reviews remain good in the future as well.

No negative reviews?

- No, we haven't seen any claim that it is worthless or the worst they have ever heard, some has been a bit neutral but I guess that is okay as people have varying

tastes.

Are good reviews important to you?

- It is more fun to get good reviews than bad ones and you can use the good ones for marketing.

But Christer says that they can learn from constructive reviews so if you dislike the album and know why, don't be afraid to express that opinion and don't hold that information to yourself. And speaking of information, Christer explains that Divided Multitude has never played in Sweden and that despite the fact that it is very near.

- We very much wish to have the possibility to come to Sweden and play live, we have played in Denmark and all over Europe but

never in Sweden. Sweden Rock would have been great but there are many good festivals in Sweden that would be great to play at.

With that final wish that might have been on their Christmas wish-list (since I did the interview in December 2015) we round off this little article, say thank you to Christer and Divided Multitude, recommend their great new album, and of course alerts all Swedish bookers that there is a great band here that really wants to play in this country and probably all over Europe as well.

### More reading:

Review of Divided Multitude  
Review of Feed on Your Misery  
Review of Guardian Angel

