

# FATES WARNING

Fates Warning one of those bands that once pioneered the great genre that is progressive metal, a band that was years ahead of the now grandest name in the genre, Dream Theater. A band that is now completing their first dozen albums with Theories of Flight and for that occasion we had the fortune to ask singer Ray Alder some questions mostly about that question because most else you already know when it comes to one of the greatest names in the progressive metal genre.





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PHOTOS AS STATED ON THE PICTURE  
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Still, let us backtrack just a little bit anyway because the story of Fates Warning is a long one and we cannot really have a lone article about a band with such a history without at least writing something about it. It all started long ago, in 1982 when vocalist John Arch, guitarists Jim Matheos and Victor Arduini, bassist Joe DiBiase, and drummer Steve Zimmerman, in Hartford Connecticut in the United States of America, formed the band. Two years later in 1984 the debut "Night On Bröcken" saw the light of day, at that time they were more into the regular NWOBHM meets American styled metal but for each release they got more and more progressive.

During the years the band has changed their line up many times and the only remaining member from that time in 1982 is guitarist Jim Matheos, the most distinctive change was probably when original vocalist John Arch who was with the band for three albums was replaced by Ray Alder for the "No Exit" album in 1988, but the band has changed members many times which might explain why they keep evolving in different direction musically for every album. Other than changing members the band has gone through several hiatuses and since 1991- album "Parallels" They've had three-year gaps between the albums except for the long gap between "FWX" and their latest album to date "Darkness in a Different Light" that was released three years ago.

34 years have passed since the

band formed, 32 since the debut and 30 years since "Awaken the Guardian" that was the band's first album to chart and also the first Metal Blade album to chart. This writer would claim that of all the successful works of this band the best one is "A Pleasant Shade of Gray", a complex no bullshit album that is only for a select audience and apparently Mr Alder agrees.

- I would have to agree with you... "A Pleasant Shade Of Gray" is probably my favourite of the albums we've done... It is an album that I feel we wrote for ourselves, not having to think if there would be a single or a video for it. Just music...

And that is just how this writer thinks it should be, but of course that album wasn't too well received back then as people claimed it wasn't memorable and things

like that. It has however earned a much higher status now and many claim it to be an inimitable album and other accolades like that.

And with that history lesson, in extremely short form, let us get to the point with the new album "Theories of Flight".

### Theories of Flight

1st of July 2016 marks the release of "Theories of Flight" the twelfth album by progressive metal legends Fates Warning and fans would certainly hope that it is much more fun and interesting than Ray Alder's answer to being asked to describe the coming album.

- I would describe it as a heavy melodic album with some hooks and melodies that I believe are our signature sound.

When asked to elaborate

though, he explains that the album stands on its own, different from what they have done before but with a sound still recognizable as a Fates Warning sound.

- After recording so many albums over the years I believe that we have found our formula for writing music. It's always a challenge to write a new record but as difficult as this one was, it was always a pleasure to begin to hear the songs take shape.

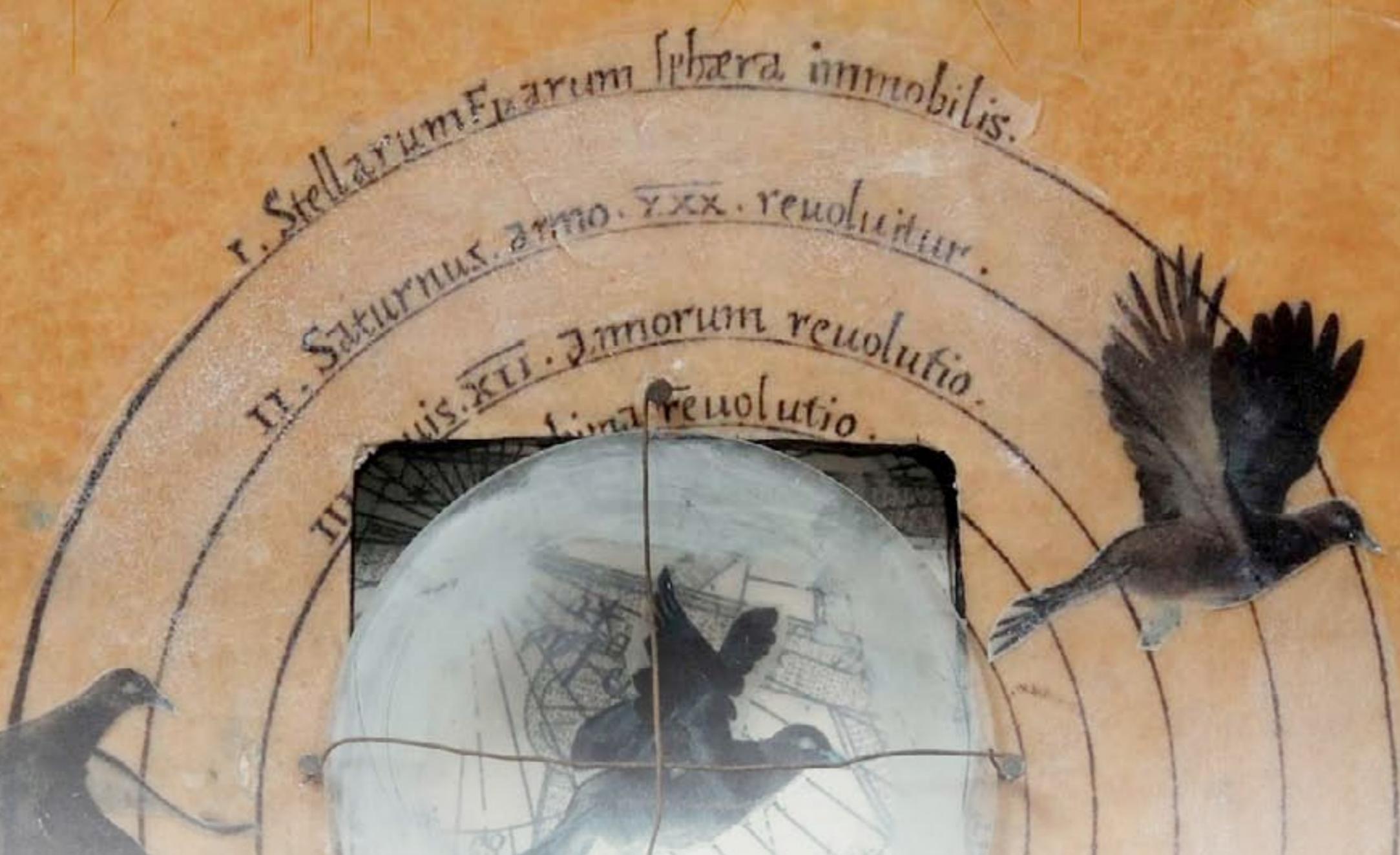
"Theories of Flight" is an interesting name, it is also something that has made the world a lot smaller as we are now capable of quickly traversing great distances on our little planet but the album isn't really a concept album about airplanes as the title actually comes from the artwork; an artwork found by Jim Matheos.

- It fit perfectly with the flow and feel of the lyrics for the new

record. Originally it was going to be called "Ghosts Of Home", but once Jim saw the artwork and title it was an easy decision to re-name it, seeing as it fit so well with the underlying theme of the lyrics.

It is a distinctive artwork, not really similar to anything this band has used for any of their previous albums but also quite different for an album artwork in general. The artwork is done by an artist named Graceann Warn who has done artwork for album covers before but Fates Warning is the biggest name she has worked with and the painting itself is focused on birds and their flight. The artwork is in general the original work but slightly changed to accommodate the band name (obviously) and also with the number 12 to commemorate that it is the band's twelfth album.

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- Jim found the piece that is the album cover now and saw the title and was drawn to it... It is quite different than our album covers.

The album deals with change that is a loose theme throughout the album.

- The lyrics for the album have a loose theme running through them. *Ghosts of home* is about Jims constant moving around when he was young and never having (I assume) the same home for less than a few years. My lyrics tend to deal with change, and moving, flights and saying goodbye to

people and places... So the title works very well.

Any favourite song?  
- I think my favourite track is *The Light And Shade Of Things* there's a lot going on in that song, and I think it's one of my favorites we've ever done.

#### Tours and Inspirations

"Theories of Flight", darkness in different lights, pleasant shades of gray, awakening guardians and many other things through a career spanning well over 30 years - this band has actually been around about as long as I

have been alive, that is no small feat. One thing this writer often finds interesting is how one does find inspiration to create new works for such a long time, so what inspires one to create new stuff for such a long time?

- I love writing and recording music... I love touring even more. Being able to see the world and meet so many amazing people has been a dream come true for me. I can't imagine a world where I wasn't in music.

With the love of touring even larger than the love of recording, we can probably be certain to see

the band on the road. There is no tour confirmed for this album yet but the band are doing two shows in 2016 as a thirtieth anniversary tour for the "Awaken the Guardian" album, one was in April in Germany and the other one is in September on ProgPower USA in Atlanta. This tour has a special line-up consisting of Jim Matheos, John Arch, Frank Aresti, Joe DiBiase, Steve Zimmerman that was the members of that album. I guess Ray will have to watch those shows from the side but he says that the band will be doing a tour for this album, probably

in autumn where he hopes to be visiting South America again and he is sure that there will be shows in Europe and USA. More on that will be updated on the band's website later on when things fall into place.

With that there isn't much else we can add, the album "Theories of Flight" is out on July 1 and if you are near Atlanta in early September you should not miss the chance to see a vintage version of **Fates Warning** performing a classic album.

And with that we thank Ray Alder for his time and advise you to

check the band's website for updates on tours and other things **Fates Warning**.

#### Read more:

Our review of *Theories of Flight*  
Our review of *Darkness in...*  
<http://www.fateswarning.com>  
Fates Warning on Youtube

#### Fates Warning 2016:

Ray Alder - vocals  
Jim Matheos - guitar  
Joey Vera - bass  
Bobby Jarzombek - drums