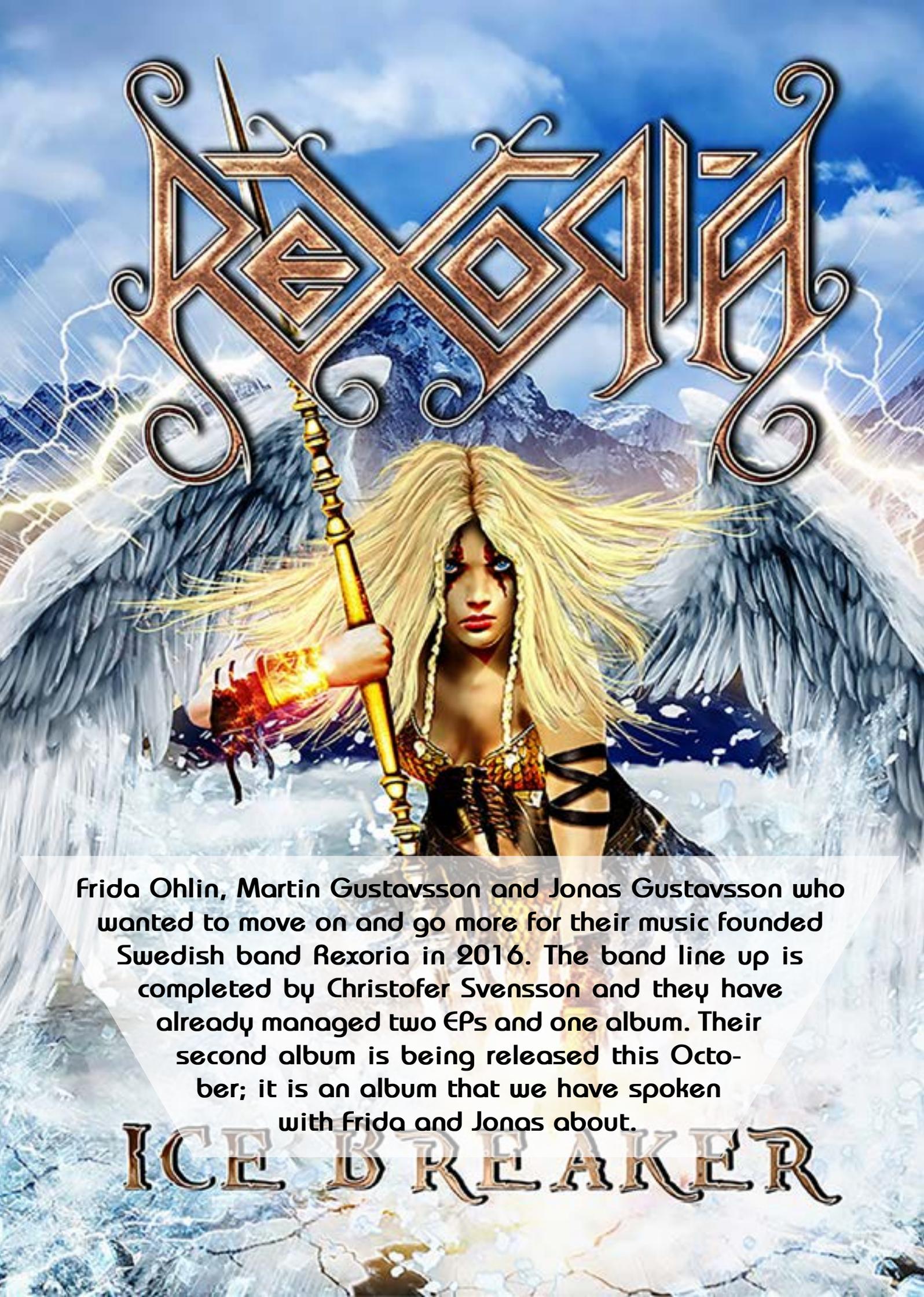


REXORIA



Frida Ohlin, Martin Gustavsson and Jonas Gustavsson who wanted to move on and go more for their music founded Swedish band REXORIA in 2016. The band line up is completed by Christofer Svensson and they have already managed two EPs and one album. Their second album is being released this October; it is an album that we have spoken with Frida and Jonas about.

ICE BREAKER



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Rexoria is a band that have adhered to the naming rule that we here at Hallowed likes, they have taken a name not used before or can be directly connected to something else. A name that is easily searchable on the web, something that is a bit unlike a fair amount of other bands, and Jonas

explains that it was something important to the band when selecting the name.

- We wanted a unique name so when searching for Rexoria on the web it will only show things related to our band and hopefully nothing else. We had certain frames for coming up with the name, I wanted the letter X in the name and to have a feminine ring to show that we have a singer we wanted the name to end with

the letters IA. We went through plenty of weird names before deciding on Rexoria.

So Rexoria was the name and the music is described as melodic metal with power-/folk influences and Frida Explains that the band has chosen a folk inspired image with lots of inspiration from the forests, the lands and the nature, something that can also be noted when watching the band's graphic material. And

Frida says that the music is inspired by modern metal and eighties hard rock.

- As song-writers we are both inspired by the hard rock of the eighties and modern metal but also by the musicality of each other as we come from different musical backgrounds.

Ice Breaker

If I claim that "Ice Breaker" is a natural and logical sequel to

"Queen of Light", do you think I am correct in that claim?

- Both yes and no I would say. On the "natural" I completely agree, laughs. We wanted more folk/nature in the arrangement on this record and I think we succeeded with that. Then it is probably quite common that the second album is a bit finer tuned and polished than the first. We had both more time and experience when we started working on this album

compared with the first. Then I think we did everything in song writing, lyrics, technical aspects, vocals and instruments, and that little bit extra that you add, really well. That was something we probably lack a little it on the first album. I think we all did really well and many things are outside our comfort zone. And you cannot forget that Fredrik Nordström did a great work with the production of the album, that is



also important, explains Jonas.

- "Ice Breaker" is our second record where we have evolved in many aspects. The record contains more speed, power and has a bigger production than before. We feel that we have found a sound that defines Rexoria, Frida adds.

"Ice Breaker" might not be a title that feels like something obviously heavy metal but Jonas explains that they were looking for something more Scandinavian and a bit more raw and cold than

before.

- Before we even had a song ready for the album we had tossed and discussed billions of ideas of how we wanted this record to be as a whole. We wanted to emphasise the folkish/Scandinavian on the record and not only musically but also visually have something striking. We almost had the idea for the look of the cover ready and wanted to find a fitting name as well as have a song with the same title that could be a bit heavier and rawer

than what we have done before.

And the one listening to the title track and looks at how the ices are broken on the cover might figure that it is something of a statement about the development seen in the climate of the world during the latest century. A subject that is very much of current interest and also related to Rexoria's interest for nature, that the subject is hot at the moment adds to it according to Frida.

- The song itself is not a political statement but a subject we want

to bring to the listener's notice a little bit extra, this because we are inspired by nature.

The cover is interesting, can you tell me something about it?

- Funny that you think so! As I have mentioned before we had an idea how the cover would be. It is unavoidable that it is a bit inspired by the climate changes that are occurring, that is of course a very current subject but the main reason for the cover turning out as it did was that we wanted more folk influences on the record and

at the same time something that brings attention to how parts of our nature is being destroyed for different reasons. We also wanted more attitude on the album and a cover that reflects that. We are very happy with the work the artist did. He figured it all at once and managed to capture an incredible amount of details that makes the little extra but also effects the whole; explains Jonas.

Tours and stuff

Many have favourite songs on al-

bum, at least the fans do. If you ask a band about the favourite song from a new album they rarely have a straight answer to that question and Rexoria isn't the exception to that rule. Frida explains that the album has a varied list of songs that keeps a common thread throughout. It is songs they hope should appeal to a wide audience and might be the reason that they have difficulty agreeing on a favourite song. But they are happy with all the songs of the album and according to Jo-

nas is the boring answer to what is the strongest part of the album, the whole.

- I think the album has strong songs, good production, it is more technical than before but still on a level where it is straightforward and easy to listen to while still being varied with lots more folk influences than before and a good looking artwork. But to me the strongest parts are the choruses. If Frida or Jonas would have dared to select a favourite track it could have been the Swedish addition that ends the album, *Vår Verklighet* (Our Reality) is the name of that track and it has a guest singer that Frida thinks adds a lot to the song.

- That song was written because we wanted to do something a little different for this record. We have thought a long time about making a song in Swedish and figured it was time for that now. The result was a folky power ballad, and fortunately Niklas Isfelt from Dream Evil wanted to be part of it by doing guest vocals. And it is not just the guest singers that are interested, Jonas explains that there is a good amount of interest for the new album and that people seems to be looking forward to it.

- I often get questions from different people about the new album and so on, so I think that there are some expectations from people and we really don't want to disappoint. So I hope and believe that we will make them as happy as we are with this album. But it is now things are really starting to happen when bookings start to come in and new merchandise is coming, it feels like it is getting busy now.

And they are hoping that the new album will be something of an icebreaker for the band and that they will reach a wider audience than earlier, where the strong production by Fredrik Nord-

ström should appeal to the fans as much as it appeals to the band. Jonas explains that the ambition is to make some kind of tour and there are already some plans in place but apart from a few shows nothing is decided yet.

- We will play in Holland at a festival the day after the album is released. Then we will open for Freedom Call in November in Finnspång and Stockholm, so that is a bit of a start. We hope to be able to tag along for a bigger tour some time next year.

Then it might be Wacken and the biggest stage there, according to Jonas that is the dream venue for the band and the one visiting the band there or on the locations they have already booked will see an energetic band says Frida.

- On stage we are driven by energy and are fully focused. We always try to involve the crowds and do a great show. We have plans to offer more exclusive shows, and whether you like eighties hardrock or more modern metal we will be a suitable band as there are traces of both heavier and more melodic hard-rock in our songs

And as a bonus tip we can add that the album "Ice Breaker" will also be available on vinyl and that it is released on October 18, 2019. On the band's website you can find out where and when the band plans to visit a venue and play, and with that we say thanks to Frida and Jonas for taking their time to answer some questions from us.

Links

Rexoria.com

Review of Queen of Light

Rexoria på youtube

Recird label Pride & Joy

