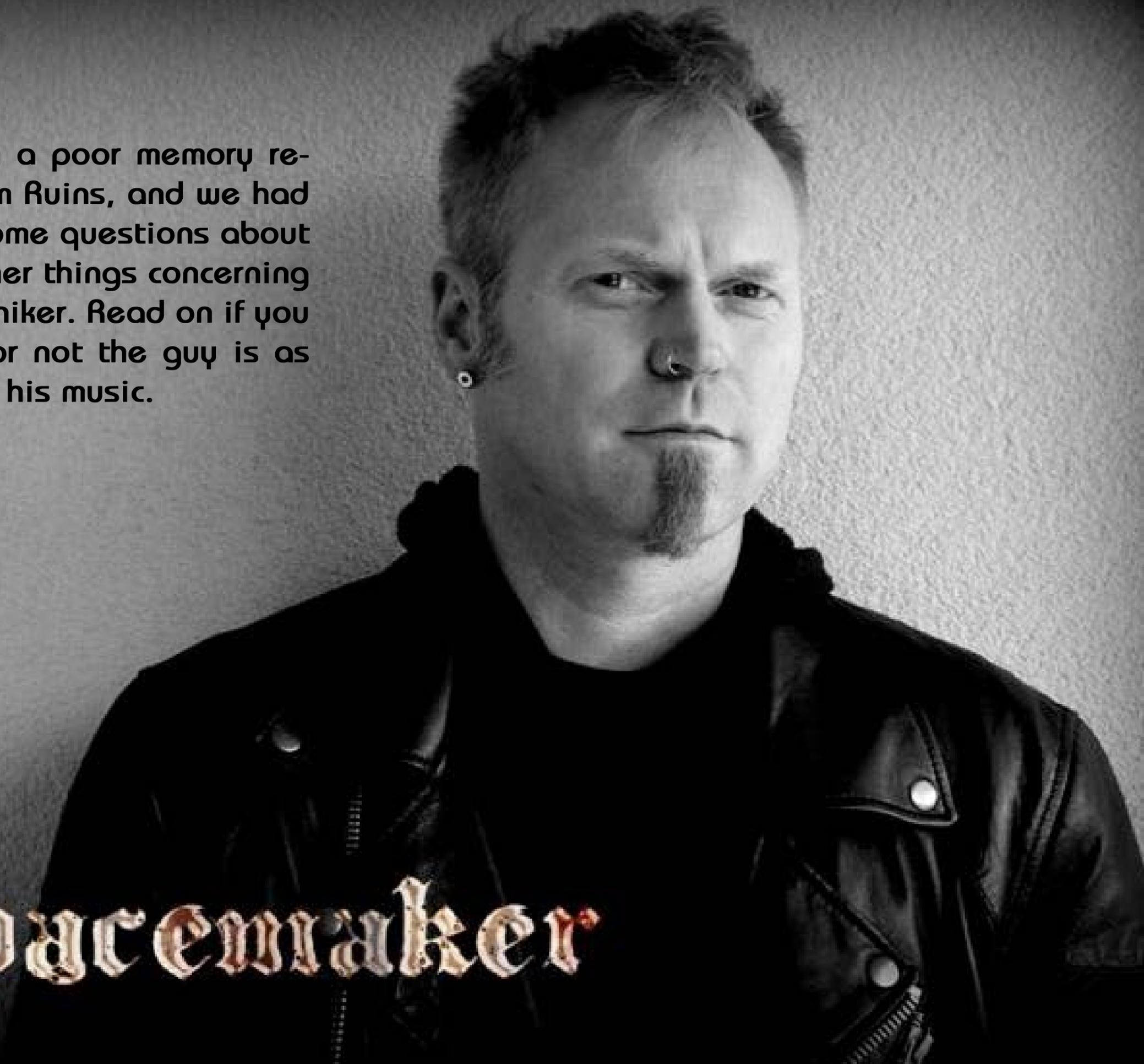


A man called Rusty with a poor memory recently released his album Ruins, and we had the fortune to ask him some questions about that album and some other things concerning the Rusty Pacemaker Moniker. Read on if you want to know whether or not the guy is as melancholic as his music.

rusty pacemaker



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What is in a name? Rusty Pacemaker is a somewhat different name, and the story behind it is not really that complex with a nickname and play on words,

- Shortly before releasing my debut album I had to think about a name for the project and actually I really don't remember how Pacemaker came to my mind. I always liked the rhythm of the name as it sounds like Lemmy Kilmister. And, what was important to me, you could not put a label on the name. You could not define a specific genre as it is not a typical death, gothic or whatever name. I also found the meaning of the words rusty pacemaker interesting and as Rusty is my nickname it just seemed as a nice word play to me.

There is something dark hiding behind the moniker, not only the ruins name of the album but also the style Rusty describes as dark metal, dark alternative metal or something like that. Dark and melancholic heavy music is how it can be described so is it how Rusty himself can be described, dark and melancholic?

- Whenever I sit down and grab my guitar something melancholic comes out and it seems that there is nothing I can do about it. Some reviewers describe my music even as depressive. Actually I would rather call it melancholic

and to me there is a big difference between melancholy and depression. I don't consider melancholy as a negative feeling. It is a very intimate and yet positive feeling whereas depression is a negative, destructive feeling.

And the music is a way dealing with feelings like these for Rusty.

- When composing I deal with my dark feelings, my melancholy and also with pessimistic views to the world. Musically I like to bring this to a point in a direct way and try to create an atmosphere that transports these feelings. This is what defines my musical style though generally being a musician is like being on a journey and we will see if and how my musical style will change along with my musical skills in the future.

Rusty has been enjoying heavy music since he was a little child and has a large collection of albums, and he explains that all of these albums have inspired him in one way or another. But it is not only the music that inspires, other things in life inspires as well.

- . All music I love from Black Sabbath to Moonspell, from Bathory to Tiamat, from Anathema to Enslaved, their music might have influenced my creations. Sometimes, when I discover a certain atmosphere or feeling in a specific song I try to recreate this atmosphere in my own style but generally I'm inspired by the whole world and by myself, my

life, by my own feelings which I try to give a soundtrack with my music.

Ruins Pt I

Recently Rusty Pacemaker released his second album called Ruins and it is an evolvment compared with the first album thanks to more experience in all the processes in album creation.

- When creating my debut album "Blackness and White Light" I did everything the first time, song writing, recording and production. I was not experienced at all in this process of creation and for sure one could hear this, especially in the production but also in the song writing. I would say that "ruins" is heavier and more Metal influenced than "Blackness and White Light" which I would describe more as Dark Rock. When composing "Ruins" I had more control over my song writing while still I try to follow my intentions and I don't care very

much about specific song structures. I also consider my second album more diversified than the first one.

And Rusty will not agree with those who describes his music as monotonous as he thinks there is a lot of variety in his music, especially his new album "Ruins".

- Some reviewers described my music as monotonous what, honestly, I don't understand as I think that especially ,ruins' has so much variety in it, more than "Blackness and White Light" has. Though there are big differences between the two albums I think that still they have many in common especially the dark and melancholic atmosphere.

The song writing for "Ruins" started right after the debut album was released and the title tracks was one of the first songs Rusty finished, along with *Night Angel* and *Made of Lies*. As Rusty



does it all by himself and don't need to rehearse with other band members he does the song writing and pre-production at the same time. And it all starts with the guitar.

- I always come up with an idea on the guitar first, a riff or sometimes only an intro, what I record and on which I build up the whole song step by step. For ruins I wrote every single track this way. When I have the basic structure of a song finished more or less, than I add the bass, more guitars and finally the vocals. Often I skipped to compose the second, third and sometimes fourth guitar during the pre-production

and went on to the next song. The recording started in a studio in Vienna together with drummer Franz Löchinger who is a genius on this instrument and recorded the whole album on one single day! After that I began to record all other instruments in my own studio. Then I composed and added more guitars and solo parts for each and every song. Finally the material has been sent to sound engineer Markus Stock a.k.a Ulf Theodor Schwadorf who mixed and mastered the album in his Klangschmiede Studio E.

The album has a dramatic looking covers, one of the reasons for that is because Rusty wants to

avoid the clichés that often plague the metal and rock genres.

- I always thought about an old ruin, maybe a church ruin for the cover. When the recordings were finished and I had to design the cover artwork this idea seemed quite boring to me. Especially in Rock and Metal Music there are just too many albums with a ruin on the cover so I thought about the lyrics of the track ruins and where I sing "we lie six feet under, still believe we fly, so high. The more we rise the deeper we will fall" the image of a dead bird came into my mind. The cover photo has been shot by an amateur photographer who gave me

rusty pacemaker



the right to use it. Still I'm happy with this decision cause I think it's an impressive image and fits very well to my music.

Ruins Pt II

Musicians are often reluctant to pick a favourite song of an album they make, even though I think most musicians have a favourite song on the albums they make. I personally probably have a favourite article and review of the Hallowed webzine and so on. At least he has a decent reason not to pick one.

- If I would have favourites it would mean that I like other songs less and that's not the case

to be honest. You put so much work and passion in each and every song, you know. I also have special memories to each song and so an individual relationship to every song is developing.

And he thinks there is nothing he would like to change with the album, or that it is no point in dwelling more than necessary on what has already been done.

- If you work over years on an album you have to make so many decisions in concern of song writing, recording and sound! Once the album is finished, and it seems like a long journey to finish an album, you have to accept it the way it finally comes out. It is

the best album I could have made at this point. If I would write it now, it would be different and if I would record it now it would sound differently, but that's a never-ending story. Although it is not played live each tone has been recorded in a specific moment on a specific day. The mix has been done on a specific day and everything depends on your mood, your condition, maybe the weather or how you slept for example. So, all music can be considered as a moment in time and has to be accepted the way it is. Even if I decide to record my debut album "Blackness and White Light" once again in the future



for example, will the result be better or just different?

So, how good is this moment in time? Has it garnered any interest from fans, press and whatever else is out there? In today's world it is difficult to be noticed, the music business is very saturated and without hard work you will never be seen and it is not even certain that you will be noticed with hard work.

- You know, it's so hard to catch the attention of fans and journalists as a solo artist especially if you don't tour. There are hundreds of releases of talented bands and artists every month and honestly I am asking myself: "Why should someone be interested in my music?" Of course, I think that my music is awesome, some

really unique stuff, melodic and beautiful and something you never heard before. But I am convinced that most bands and musicians think the same way of their music. I hope that there is some interest left for me somewhere in the underground. At least I know of a few guys out there who have been waiting for "Ruins" and I really hope they like my new album.

So what do those who have noticed the album think? Rusty seems to think that the few fans he has really likes and explains that the press reactions are also generally positive.

- I try to achieve appearances in 'zines all over the world. What's quite interesting is that almost every review is either very posi-

tive or negative. There are almost no ratings that are in between, around 50%. It seems that it is some kind of a 'love it or hate it' album. Most people appreciate it's individual character. I've been told that my music stands for its own and can hardly be compared or categorised what I really like, to be honest.

And Rusty is happy with how the albums has been received with mainly positive comments and doesn't read too much into the negative as there is no accounting for personal taste and he doesn't want to be everyone's darling either.

- , I want my music to be heard. Sometimes when I read a very positive review on my album I feel that the listener does com-

pletely understand my music how I meant it. That's definitely an amazing experience and a big motivation to move on and work hard on the next album.

Future

Now that the album is out the work has slowly commenced on the next album, the promotional work for "Ruins" still remains with interviews and keeping in contact with magazines and webzines. Rusty looks to start the song writing for the next album during autumn and winter as that is his favourite time for writing songs as he has more time for it then.

- I have already a working title for the next album but no material recorded yet. I would like to

try out some new ideas and I always like to experiment a bit. However, to be able to be creative is a privilege and extremely vitalizing for me. I know it might take years until my next album will be finished but on every single day in my life I think about my songs, my album and my career as a musician even in times I have no possibility to play my guitar.

And to round it all off I leave the final words to Rusty, just after I have pointed out that Rusty Pacemaker's second album "Ruins" is available now.

- Well, first of all I would like to thank you, Daniel, for this interview and your support! Further I would like to thank all the readers who have come this far and are reading these words right

now! Thanks for your interest in my music! Be invited to visit my website, be my friend on Facebook and get the album via my label on www.solanumrecords.com. Take care!

Some useful links

The Hallowed review of Ruins
Rusty Pacemaker's website
Rusty Pacemaker on youtube
Solanum Records