



An instrumental progressive metal band from Ireland, that is how the band Shardborne describes themselves when asked about the band. A few years ago they released an EP called "Aeonian Sequence" on their own and now recently they released their debut album "Living Bridges" on Out On a Limb Records.

SHARDBORNE

LIVING BRIDGES



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Shardborne is a name read in the Shakespeare play Macbeth by the drummer Ben, Ciaran Culhane, one of the guitarists explains the story behind the name Shardborne.

- Three of us were in an older version of the band and we had a terrible name so we decided

to change it. We tossed around several ideas and couldn't decide on anything. Ben (drums) saw the word used in the Shakespeare play Macbeth he was studying in school at the time and we liked so ran with it

A four piece band with two guitars, bass and drums is how this instrumental band is built, and their inspiration is to make music they feel proud of. A noble goal for a band and that music

they are proud of is something they want to spread to the wider masses.

- We just want people to listen to it and support us where they can. We're all very passionate about music and want to make it our lives.

Being an instrumental band they are not bound by incorporating vocals in their music, in our review we wrote that it sounds like you would

guess from looking at the cover art. According to Ciaran it is something of a journey.

- I suppose I'd describe it more like a journey with twists and turns than a usual repetitive verse/chorus song style. We tend to move from one mood to another rather than try to catch a hook.

And they like to describe themselves as progressive metal with heavy music that they try

to bring to as many different places as they can with influences ranging from a TV theme song to a song from Mesuggah sparking ideas for them.

- The main thing that has changed for us since the "Aeonian Sequence" E.P would that we'd consider ourselves better at writing now. Style wise it's much the same and our writing process hasn't changed.

Living Bridges

As already alluded to, the band's debut album "Living Bridges" is out since a short while back, released on Out On a Limb Records and the band are happy to have the album out for people to find.

- We're really happy to finally have it out there and for people to be able to listen to it. Having a label backing us on this one has been a joy! It's great having more



people interested in having our music out there and helping us get it out to more people.

Getting an album out there and getting it noticed are different things though, having a label helps a lot, trust me as an editor for a publication about music I know how we prioritise albums from labels and albums that are only sent by the bands themselves. But having backing from a label is only one thing, what about those who have heard

the album, what do they think? That is after all something that is equally important as a label in terms of getting attention.

- Reception has been great! Beyond our expectations for sure. We've been getting lots of very positive interviews and lots of fans have been contacting us to let us know that they liked it and are supporting the music. It's been fantastic to get such positive feedback.

And they got a good review

from us at Hallowed as well, as a creative person myself I know that things usually don't really turn out as you expect when you set out on a journey to create a new piece, and that is something Ciaran alludes to as well.

- You never know exactly how a recording of a song is going to sound in the end but I think we're all very happy with the finished record. We spent a good amount of time demoing the songs and trying out a few different ideas

and had a firm idea of the extra layers we wanted to add and what sounds we wanted to use so we didn't have any surprises when we finally finished the album. We are all very proud of the album.

And they don't want to change anything according to Ciaran

Does he have any favourite song on the album then?

- The song *Moving Magnetic North* is a fun one for me to listen to as it's the one track on the

album that we don't really play live and keep in our arsenal of songs ready to play at shows. It was very fun to record and we built a lot more of this track in the studio than any of the others. So while I don't have a favourite song this is the one that I enjoy listening to myself.

Touring

With a new album there might be some touring following, this of course in order to promote

the album to live music visitors and fans. And Ciaran explains that *Shardborne* has been doing some touring at their home turf in Ireland and the plan is to go further afield in the future.

- We've been playing lots of shows in Ireland to promote this since it came out. We plan on doing at least a run of dates in the UK and a tour in Europe mainland next year. We'd love to get to play some festivals too! We did a UK tour and a couple



of dates in The Netherlands in the past and can't wait to get out doing gigs abroad again. It's some of the most fun we've ever had as a band.

It is important to enjoy oneself in one's craftsmanship and if the band enjoys themselves I think that the likelihood that fans will

do the same is fairly large. So what about Shardborne as a live band? According to Ciaran it is their biggest strength.

- It's an instrumental onslaught! We put a lot of work into playing these songs live. I'd say we're very big sounding live and try to make it entertaining to watch.

We're pretty loud too! But we always aim for a big, clear sound. A lot of fans tell us that they love our shows because there's so much changing and movement in the songs so it never gets dull.

Shardborne's "Living Bridges" is available now on CD and vinyl

through Out On a Limb Records and according to a Hallowed review it is well worth checking out.

Some links:

The Hallowed review of Living Bridges
<http://www.shardborne.com>
Shardborne on youtube
Out On a Limb Records