



Sound Storm

Born as a game by some friends in the late 90s, playing for fun until composing on material and releasing a debut album in 2009 and now Sound Storm has their second album out for all to see. Hallowed had the pleasure to speak with Valerio Sbriglione guitarist and composer of the band.

From the humble beginnings of playing for fun in the spare time the band started to write their own material in around 2005 Valerio explains, he along with drummer Federico Brignolo was looking for the right people to start up their work as Sound Storm.

- After a couple of line up changes we found the right people in Philippe (D' Orange, vocalist) and Massimiliano (Flak, bass player). The keyboard player role always gave us some troubles...(laughs) Since the first album "Twilight Opera" we've already changed 2 keyboard players, but now I'm sure we've found the right one: Davide Cristofoli.

In 2009 the debut of Sound Storm "Twilight Opera" was released following which they did some various shows, they also toured in Mexico during 2010.

The name Sound Storm might not be considered by all as a band in the symphonic metal genre but it is a name that came from a mistake, the name was not Sound Storm from the beginning it was thanks to a journalist they became known as Sound Storm.

- In the early days the name was "Sand Storm"; after one of our first show we read the live report of it and the journalist called us "Sound Storm". We found it interesting and more similar to what we wanted to communicate, even today. If you have listened carefully the new album "Immortalia" you can easily understand what we want to say with our "Storm"!

The inspirations are tied to the name you could say being like a storm of different things blending together into one solid unity.

- I can say this question is linked with the previous one. Our name,

Sound Storm, also means a lot of influences, a real storm of all the influences we have in the band. While in "Twilight Opera" that was just a hint, in "Immortalia" it becomes definitely clear: in it you can find a lot of influences, from gothic metal to black and death metal, from classical music to cinematic scores.

Being an Italian band they belong to a rather large group of bands that can be considered similar if you consider metal with symphonic undertones a common denominator as there are many nuances there. I think we can all count several Italian bands falling into this category, at the very least one but is this something that has inspired Sound Storm in their musical way? Valerio says that it has.

- I can surely say Rhapsody (the first album), even if Sound Storm are quite different. I think we're close to more extreme and dark metal bands.

He also adds that he thinks Sound Storm are quite unique in what they do, and I think you can say that they both are and aren't depending on from which perspective you look at it.

Immortalia

"Immortalia" is the second album of Sound Storm, it was released in late August and is a conceptual story of mankind's perhaps biggest dream, immortality. Valerio explains in further detail.

- "Immortalia" is what Sound Storm are really capable of and what they will do in the next years. We've finally found our perfect sound, and I think people will appreciate what we're doing. All the songs in "Immortalia" are linked by the concept of the research of immortal life, the mankind's most ancient quest. Someone said "the album is a piece of work balanced among powerful guitars, magnificent sympho-

nic choirs, gothic atmosphere and baroque melodies". I would add: "Immortalia" is a journey through the corrupted human soul to reach immortality, and the music describes every state of mind and every moment of this journey". Obviously it is a too simple description, but it gives an idea of the whole album.

He adds that though the album is conceptual in nature it is not really a concept album in the regard that the entire album tells a story but rather each song has its own story but they are linked by the overall story, kind of like the televised shows of old.

So, are they proud of what they have achieved with their second album?

- Yes, we are. Because everyone so far caught the sense of it, because this is what we wanted to do since the beginning, because we're aware that we have in our hands something really new, and we know it will kick some asses!

But what about the reception? When I did research for the review of the album there were some really high ratings out there around the web and Valerio confirms this.

- Just incredible..We got a lot of reviews so far, and they're all top album and/or full rating reviews. This is great, especially if you're an Italian band and play a genre which usually is discriminated. By the way, what we really appreciate is that many people don't talk about us as a power metal band anymore.

Favourites and tours

So, not considered a power metal band anymore, and they are telling stories in a symphonic, epic, grande style. So what about the songs? Our reviewer did not point out a favourite song in the review but what about Valerio, does he have one?

- it's really difficult to me. It's





like asking a father who his favourite son is! (laughs) I love all the songs for a lot of different reasons, but I'd like to mention *Faraway* and *The Portrait*. The first one is about the infinite war between Good and Evil, or, better, between Heaven and Hell; the second one is our first suite (9 minutes long) and it is about Dorian Gray's portrait: here you can find what Sound Storm is today, and you can find all the influences we were talking about.

The Portrait of Dorian Gray is a great story for sure and a theme well suited to storytelling in a musical form. And now with this grande offering out to buy, and with a new album the possibility of tours and touring is something that Sound Storm is looking to do as well, and they will do it alongside some big names.

- We just had a show as exclusive support of Epica in Italy, it was totally successful. We're going to tour Europe in September with Tristania, 14 shows all across Europe (except Scandinavia and... Italy). But we will go on touring also in 2013, we're already working on it.

Playing live is something that many bands appreciate and enjoy and Sound Storm does a grande show according to the information from Valerio.

- What sets Sound Storm apart

from many other bands, is the fact that we don't use pre-recorded tracks during live shows. We have 6 voices on stage, and this allow us to reproduce also the choirs you can hear on the albums. I think that people feel everything is real, and the first gig of the "Immortalia tour" with Epica showed that I was right. I think we're gonna have a great time on tour!

However, sound storm has a big sound on record and their music consist of many layers, symphonies and all of that which often can be lost when such a band plays live, those who have seen bands like Rhapsody or Epica live knows what I am on about where the arrangements is pre-recorded and does not fit in too well. So how does this work with Sound Storm, does their music work well live?

- Yes, it does. Live it's probably even better! This because we also love to interact with fans and make every show unique.

And with that I hope you have gained some knowledge of these guys, if not there is also a review to check out and the band themselves of course has their resources on the web where they inform of things to come. And that is one of the things Valerio wants to point out as an addition to my questions:

- I'd like to thank everyone who's been reading so far, and I just wanna invite your readers to give us a chance listening to "Immortalia", they can discover something new and unexpected! See you soon on tour and come to visit us on our facebook profile www.facebook.com/powerof-soundstorm

"Immortalia" is out now through Scarlet Records, be sure to check out our review of "Immortalia" and visit the band's sites to learn more of tours to sample their music. With that Hallowed wants to thank Valerio for his time and wish Sound Storm the best of luck with their upcoming tours and stuff.

Sound storm on the web:

www.powerofsoundstorm.com
on myspace
on youtube
on reverbnation
Hallowed review of Immortalia

Sound Storm are:

Philippe D'Orange - Vocals
Valerio Sbrigione - Guitars
Federico Brignolo - Drums
Massimiliano Flak - Bass
Davide Cristofoli - Keyboards & Piano

