

CORONATUS

Stupid German, could have been British

Goth rockers/metal gods called Coronatus from Germany are combining the English and German language in their songs. German and British titles are sitting side by side, unlike the times during the 40s but that is something neither I, nor Coronatus was talking about when discussing the latest offering by these German fellows.

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Photo: Massacre Records
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Being a rather new band on the scene they might not be the most well known band for all you metallers out there, so who are Coronatus?

- We are a goth metal band who have tendencies to move towards the symphonic, the band's drummer Mats explains on a connection that is everything but good.

The symphonic side is not what sets Coronatus most apart from the rest of the genre, neither is the fact that the band use both English and German songs. No there is something else:

- One thing that sets us apart from many other bands is that we have two female singers, Mats explains, Carmen who has a classical soprano voice and Ada who has a bit of a rock voice, this is something quite unique as far as I know.

Female singers

It is a unique thing, I have never heard or heard about another band that plays the same kind of music as Coronatus do. The thing is that this thing with two female singer was nothing that was planned.

- That's a funny story, Mats says, at first we had a singer who quit the band and a while after that we received an offer to play a gig. Therefore we did some casting and two females, Carmen and Verina stood out from the rest, they were both so good that we decided to take them both.

The singers has different roles in the music of the band, Carmen (R. Schäfer) is the soprano voice and Verina was the rock voice but she was replaced by Ada (Fletcher) who is now the rock voice of the band. The two singers contrast to one another in the music and plays different roles in the songs and according to the band there is no competition between the two female singers.

- They are such different voices and they are both appearing in the songs, Fabian the Keyboarder of the band explains, they have different roles there so there isn't really any room for competition.

- Though we had some competition in former times, Mats adds.

But no competition now and if

we listen to what 'Porta Obscura' has to offer we can hear that the co-operation between the two singers seem to work really well.

Porta Obscura

The band has made two records so far, 'Lux Noctis' and 'Porta Obscura' and these albums are quite different according to the two guys on the phone.

- They have a bit different direction, Mats explains. 'Lux Noctis' is a bit more of the classical gothic style while 'Porta Obscura' is more diverse and takes a bit different direction

There are other differences between the albums as well, the guys on the phone explains that there are more people involved in the making of the songs and for 'Porta Obscura' they added another guitarist for a heavier sound.

- The new guy has played in some black metal bands and maybe adds a bit heavier/harder

sound to the band, Fabian explains about Jo Lang.

Adding another guitarist is something that may seem insignificant but fact is that Coronatus have line-ups that look radically different between their first album 'Lux Noctis' and their recent album 'Porta Obscura', so why these many line-up changes? One reason may be that some in the band then wasn't really a part of the band at that time.

- It depends on how you define changing members, Mats points out, our prior guitar player Volle was more of a guest member and after the album we found Jo, our second guitarist is a guest. The base player in the time of 'Lux Noctis' we had a guy who was not a real member and he was exchanged for 'Porta Obscura' but we already have a new guy as the old one had to move due to his job.

German with English in it

Now it is more time to look closer at the band's latest offering called 'Porta Obscura' which was released late 2008 and according to our review was a very, very good album. However, that is of course a subjective opinion by our reviewer but fact is that the album is good and the band are quite satisfied with what they have released.

- We are very satisfied with it, Mats answers my question, the production, the songs are all very good. Of course there is always things that can be improved, he continues.

- We would like some more base and heavy guitar in the future but it is already very good as it is, Fabian adds to what Mats have said.

One unique feature of the music of Coronatus is the fact that they sing in both German and English but



Mats - drums



Ada - vocals



Carmen - vocals

Coronatus



where does this idea come from? From where does the inspiration for this derive? It turns out that it goes a long way back in the history of this band.

- Our first songs were in German from our founding me and George Grigoriatis back in 1999, Mats explains. He wrote almost all songs and many songs written by him stuck with us and we stayed with this concept. Still most of the songs in German are songs by George. The band love this combination and it makes it less boring than the usual bands.

Sweden Recycle Festival

I can agree on that thing, the combination of languages makes the music of the band much more dynamic than the usual bands in the genre.

Now then, for one of my favourite questions to use, favourite song, do they have one? Of course they do.

- Some, Mats says, it all depends on the member. When the songs are played live songs like *Mein Herz* tend to be a fan favourite, another song the fans seem to like is *Exitus*.

Our reviewer liked those mentioned songs as well as some

The whole band and the female vocalists.

other songs sung in German, and as the subject touched the side of live music, the question is: will the band do some touring to promote this album?

- Hopefully, Mats answers the question. We don't have any solid offers yet but I hope that will change as we don't have any possibilities to do our own tour. We may do some single gigs and maybe, if we find the right partners, a tour.

And, the bands also let me know that they have had an informal

Coronatus

Photo: Massacre Records

offer from the well-known Swedish festival that is usually called Sweden Rock Festival even though the better name would be Sweden Relic Festival or considering which bands visit, maybe Sweden Recycle Festival.

- Maybe we will get a real offer from them, Fabian points out.

Future and famous final word

How about the future then? What happens a little bit down the road after the occasional tour and things, will the band start

working on a next album and if so, when will that be out in the stores, that is if there are any stores left by then.

- Right now we are working on the next album, Mats explains.

That is something of a surprise to me as the latest album was out just a short while before I made the interview but perhaps trouble of finding tour partners and doing a tour forces the band to keep on writing and rehearsing music.

- The songs are there in raw versions, we will work to finish that album as soon as possible.

However, it will take some more time and it may not be done before 2009 ends but we will try, says Mats.

Guess one will have to keep on doing music and releasing it to avoid being forgotten by the fans. Speaking of the fans, here are the final words from the bands to the fans.

- Keep on rockin', keep on buying our albums and I hope to see you all on the road, says Mats.

- Keep buying our CDs and keep going to our shows, and all that Mats said, is Fabian's famous final words in this article.

Dir.K