

They hail from Düsseldorf in Germany, they have a twelve year history so far to look back upon. Still they have only this year in february released their debut album called Thieves of the Sun, Hallowed found this an interesting debut and as a consequence of that we landed an interview with Doro who plays the guitar for this band.



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The history of Elmsfire begins in Düsseldorf in 1999 when guitarists Germano and Doro founded the band in which they are still both active. It actually started with Doro being the student of Germano and when Doro got better they decided to form the band as their tastes in music happened to be quite similar. In the early going they had a more death metal oriented sound that in Doro's own words metamorphosed into something much more melodic and today they are often stamped

as a power metal band.

They played their first live shows in 2002 and shortly thereafter they released a first demo called "Untide", they have done an EP and more demos after that and now in 2012 they released their first album "Thieves of the Sun" which has been rather well received around the web.

St. Elmo's Fire is a weather phenomenon in which luminous plasma created by a coronal discharge from a grounded object into an electrical field in the atmosphere such as those created by thunderstorms or volcanic eruptions. The name comes from the patron saint of sailors and

appears as a bright blue or violet glow that can appear like fire in certain circumstances and often springs from tall pointed objects like masts on a ship for instance. This natural phenomenon is what inspired the name Elmsfire, explains Doro.

- It was the idea of that bluish, fire-like apparition that inspired the name.

The name is also said to represent the fire burning for their creativity and passion residing within the band. And as we have already been touching upon they have gone through numbers of line up changes and demos before finally ending up at Massacre

and releasing their debut album which also featured another singer than the one they have now but Doro believes that they now have achieved something of a more stable line up that they can build upon in the future.

- Yes, we believe that our current line-up is not only stable but also very powerful, a foundation on which we can hopefully build a lot of new and exciting songs.

Thieves of the Sun

"Thieves of the Sun", the debut of Elmsfire is their most elaborate work to date according to Doro, and it was not an easy album to finish due to them hitting a lot of

rocks on the road as Doro puts it. And this hardship in finishing this album also makes the album such an important release to Elmsfire.

- There is a lot of emotion in the music and even so a lot of authentic experience hidden in the lyrics. It is my conviction that all of the things going on around us and the creation of that album show in those songs, too.

As Doro points out when I ask, sound is a difficult thing to describe and it is better heard than read about but she describes the music of Elmsfire as rich heavy metal which carries elements from many different genres of

metal. They do not want or intend to adhere to a certain style or sound like any band, just play the music that they like and as there are many different people in a band there are many different influences that effect the sound of this band. But a play of Elmsfire's "Thieves of the Sun" should entail something of an adventure.

- Listening to "Thieves of the Sun" is a bit like setting out for a journey. There is adventure waiting, a sense of freedom but also fear of what might happen and there is darkness lurking somewhere along the road...waiting.

So with the album out a while

ago it is easier to look into what kind of reception it has received by media and metal fans. And the fans of course love it explains Doro and they have won many new fans after this album as well, many outside their native Germany which she sees as surprising. The media is a different story however.

- I believe it is fair to say that we had a bit of everything: there are many people who like us and there are a few who hate us and also a number of those who haven't really decided. I dare everybody to give it a try and pass their own judgement, because that is how it works.

Trying things for yourself is of course the best method of knowing, but the band themselves know the effort behind

and Doro thinks they have every reason to be proud of what they have achieved.

- If there are people out there who like our music, that's great news, if there are people who don't we couldn't care less, since we have no intention to stop and are already writing new stuff. "Thieves of the Sun" is a huge step for us, but still only one in many. Elmsfire is a living thing and it's moving.

Many say they couldn't care less what others think, Takida said that to me once and then later went on to report a negative review to the police stating it to be slander and threat, which it wasn't but I'll take their word for it and as they say the album turned out as they hoped and is

the best thing they could have accomplished with the resources at their disposal, as if you accomplish the best thing possible you cannot be other than satisfied and that regardless of what others think. But there were challenges in creating the album, mainly in the money and personnel department.

- It is almost inhuman how much the production and everything costs and very few people have an idea but very high expectations about the quality. If you have to pay for everything by yourself this is a hard task which we luckily overcame with will, discipline and sacrifice.

If you can sacrifice a lot to find the money for a production, line up changes is more difficult to do anything about and that really made for a big challenge having people leave in the middle of recording sessions.

- The hardest was to see our singer leaving in the middle of the recording sessions. Gladly Ross (Thompson) helped us out with that problem and has become a true friend to us ever since.

And then, after the first release our drummer left, too. Drummer and singer gone that might have killed a band. But we're still here. I think that was the true challenge.

In the Hallowed review stated that the track *Worth a Tale* can be considered a hit track and that doesn't seem to be too wrong in the book of Elmsfire.

- My favourite song on the album is *Worth a Tale*. I love the devil-may-care-attitude in that song

and its optimistic mood. It fits well with that almost folky reel we play during the refrain. My favourite solo is that on *Eolian* - listening to it is just like watching the wind dance.

Promotion and Ending

So we have been talking about Elmsfire and their debut album but no band becomes successful without gathering an interest, and for that they of course needs a bit of good promotion. We often see that good bands vanish without the right promotion and I have reviewed many really good bands that hasn't had a label behind them and they often vanish after that first album, some return years later having found a label that could push them but what about Elmsfire? Has Massacre





done a good job promoting this band?

- Massacre has done the job which we couldn't do ourselves having the connections and resources to do so. We count ourselves very lucky because you literally can't buy the kind of attention and interest we get now - that is one of the reasons why so many good bands (and I am not talking about us here) remain unknown and never get any reputation. Just because they don't already possess a name many people feel it's justified to ignore them or worse, blame them because they don't. With only your own limited resources it is very hard to find a way to get attention even if you know your craft. With the help of a label, in our specific case Massacre Records as a powerful ally, the whole thing gets transported to a completely different level. They did a great job for us.

And from the amount of reviews and interviews around the

interweb it would seem like they have gathered at least some interest for the album and themselves

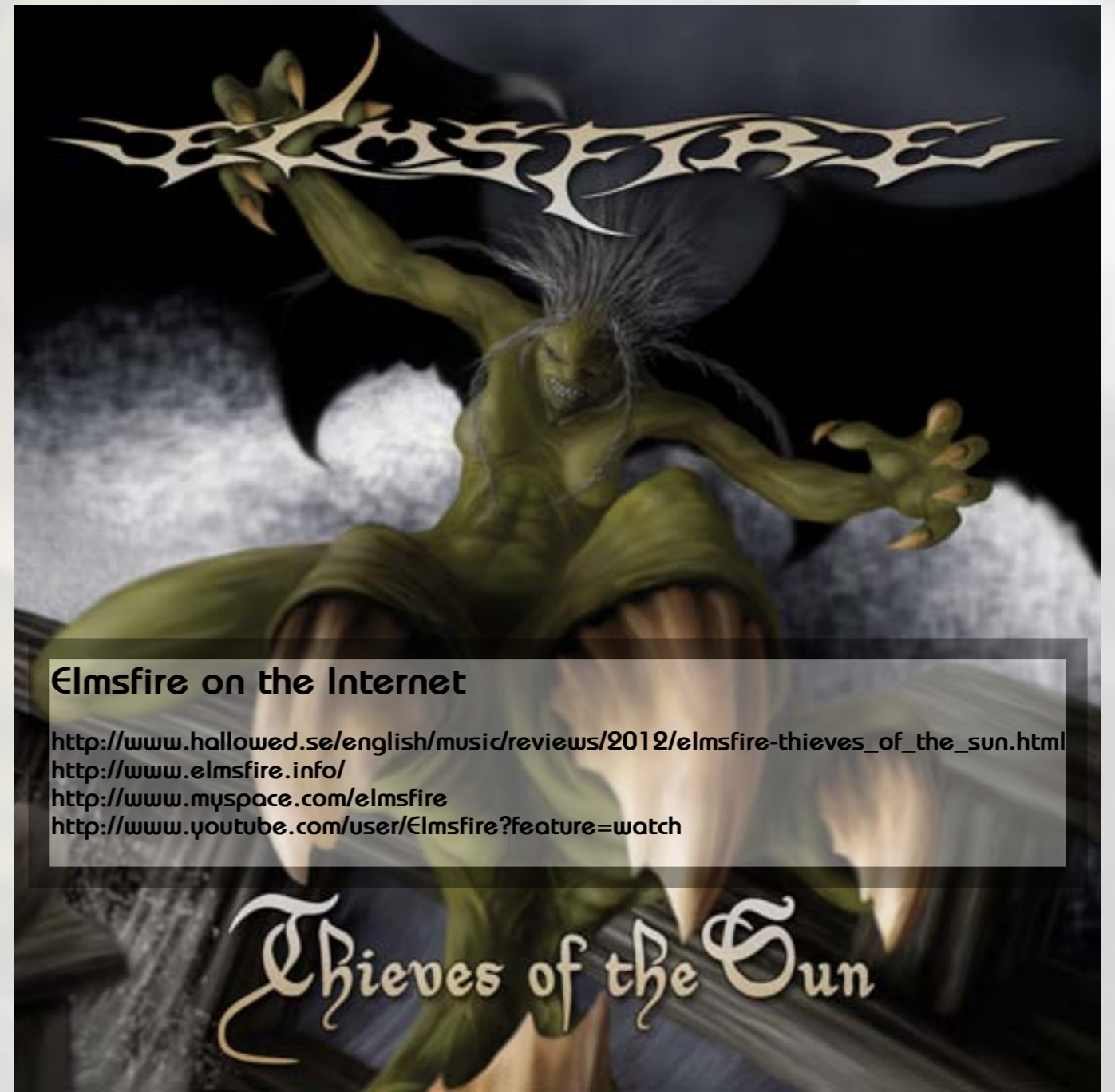
The plan now is that there are a few live shows planned now (two in may are shown on the website at the moment) and the possibility of a tour is being looked at from the band and whatever happens in that regard will be unveiled on the band's website whenever such things are confirmed. But before considering watching the band live you have to wonder about their qualities as a live band and according to Doro they are an energetic gang and all of that.

- We love to play live and are quite an energetic bunch. Some of us get totally different personalities as soon as they hit stage, we have a lot of surprises of different kinds in store and I am convinced that we are such fun to watch. There are some vids around on youtube if you'd like to get an idea, but even better just to drop by and experience it first hand.

Now then, what happens now for Elmsfire, according to Doro the work on upcoming album is already started and from the first drafts and raw versions she thinks they have something grande in the making, something that will be powerful and dark. So keep your eyes open for that and for other things on the band's website.

The debut album of Elmsfire "Thieves of the Sun" is out now, we have a review of it at our website so be sure to check that one out and with that I thank Doro and Elmsfire for taking the time to answer our questions. We leave the final words of this article to Doro.

- Thank you for taking the time reading about Elmsfire! Maybe you got a bit curious about us and it would be great to see you at one of the upcoming gigs!



Elmsfire on the Internet

http://www.hallowed.se/english/music/reviews/2012/elmsfire-thieves_of_the_sun.html

<http://www.elmsfire.info/>

<http://www.myspace.com/elmsfire>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/Elmsfire?feature=watch>