

# Mystic Prophecy

Producer and musician Roberto Dimitri Lipakis and his Mystic Prophecy have just released their latest album 'Ravenlord' to the superlatives of reviewers and fans around the world. With high ratings more or less everywhere the band seems to have affirmed the position as the top band that was established with their previous album 'Fireangel'. Hallowed were fortunate enough to get a few questions answered by RD Lipakis.



WRITTEN BY DANIEL KÄLLMALM  
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Lets start from the beginning, the Mystic Prophecy has been around for eleven years and they released their debut album in 2001 so in ten years they have released seven album which is something RD thinks is a feat not too many bands have managed these latest couple of years. Despite the

high frequency in releasing new albums, everything hasn't been smooth sailing for the band. There has been many difficulties for the band to overcome as RD explains.

- We have so far survived many difficulties like line up changes, which made us realise that it's very important for us to stay united as a band never depends on only one person as you have to work as a team, or else it's gonna

be difficult to keep it together, and through the years Mystic Prophecy has managed to get over all the hard times and member changes without losing their strength, integrity, and passion for making great music.

When Gus G. left Mystic Prophecy in 2005 many said that the band wouldn't last and had judged the band to extinction which was something the band never thought, they never had any dou-

bits about their survival.

- In every other album we proved that the band's future did not depend on some musicians alone besides, if one observes the band's history they will see that the band has significantly improved its status after the first 3 albums, and 'Fireangel', the 6<sup>th</sup> album entered the German charts in 77<sup>th</sup> place and now we come up with a new powerful album, even better, stronger and more united

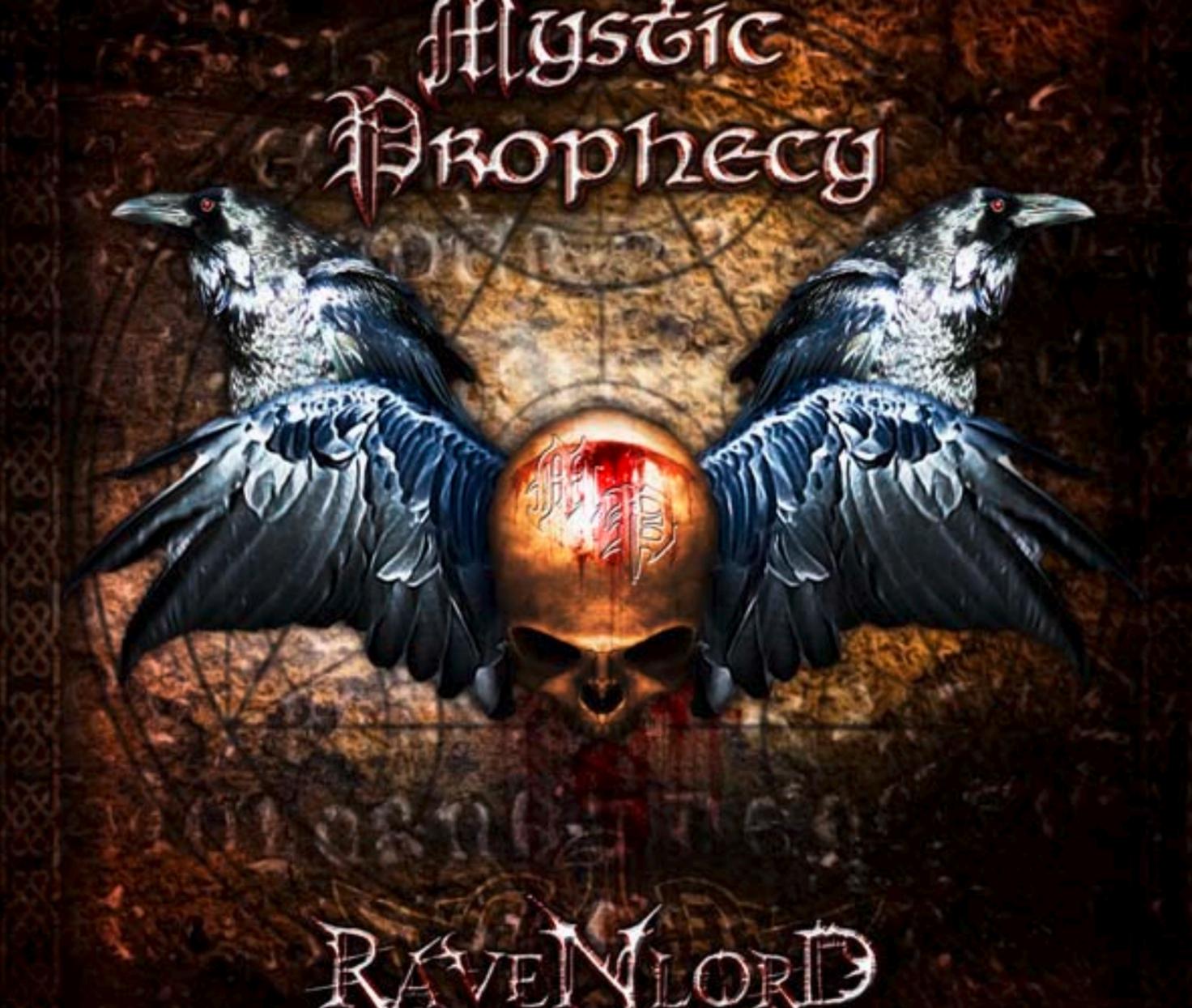
as a band.

It is also this fact that the band comes back stronger from hardships that RD says to be most proud of within the career, this which is the fact that allows the band to play their music in front of their die-hard fans whom they owe everything. RD states that they wouldn't have gotten where they are now without their loyal fans.

The heaviest German metal

band was a selling point in the promo information accompanying the songs of the 'Ravenlord' album, they are also considered similar to US Power Metal and band like Iced Earth or their peers. RD has a simpler way to describe the music of his band:

- The sound of Mystic Prophecy has got balls, aggression, power, melodies, anything a metal fan needs to be happy.



Comparing Ravenlord and fireangel album cover artworks

### Ravenlord

'Ravenlord' is the name of Mystic Prophecy's latest album and it is their seventh album, an album that RD describes as something diverse and original and something for everyone who likes metal.

- I think there is material that will cover all tastes in the Metal genre, plus an Ozzy Osbourne cover which we played like hell and more brutal.

Mystic Prophecy thinks of themselves as an evolving band who have to surpass their previous level every time in order to keep their fans interested in their

music.

- Everyone can see that Mystic Prophecy has a very strong identity as a band. So, it is essential to always give a clear and strong message with every new album, this time we managed to give the massive sound we know we can and combine it with new fresh ideas.

If you look at the lyrics for 'Ravenlord' you'll notice that it is a concept album and it is something different from the previous album 'Fireangel'. The band consider it to be a way for them to develop their skills as both musicians and composers and it is better to think

of 'Ravenlord' as a new chapter for Mystic Prophecy rather than a continuation of 'Fireangel'. RD also points out that they are absolutely satisfied with 'Ravenlord'.

- I can definitely say I'm satisfied with each and every thing in 'Ravenlord', otherwise there's no chance we put anything in there we don't like or have second thought about. If it's not exactly as we visioned it, the sound, the songs, the graphics design, the cover and everything is in a world class quality we wouldn't put it out.

'Ravenlord' took almost two years for the band to complete,

they felt they needed some time to write new songs after the 2010 tour with Stratovarius. They also had something to live up to, the 'Fireangel' album reached the 77<sup>th</sup> place on the german charts and to make such a top class album requires some serious effort according to RD.

- We took our time to make songs that please us and excite us the way we want and we're happy to have an amazing and versatile compilation of songs in 'Ravenlord'. I personally believe that *Hollow*, *Eyes Of The Devil*, *Ravenlord*, *Endless Fire*, *Wings Of Destiny*, are amazing songs without

saying that the rest ain't so good. We have eleven terrific songs on the album, and we're very proud of the result.

### Ravenlord reception

The band are very proud of the result with 'Ravenlord', but what about the listeners since they are the ones putting the band on the charts and not their own satisfactions. Mystic Prophecy were at the moment of the interview topping the Amazon download chart with 'Ravenlord' and RD is confident that 'Ravenlord' will do just like 'Fireangel' and enter the German Charts.

- The feedback from the fans is already unbelievable, they seem to like it very much. It makes us so happy about it and we can't wait to go on tour and play live.

The reception from the press is not really that different from the fans' all reviews the author has seen has been positive and that is something being seconded by RD as well, as he too seem only have noticed positive reviews of 'Ravenlord'.

- If you check all the reviews about 'Ravenlord' on our official website, <http://www.mystic-prophecy.net> you will see how insanely well things are going.



Mystic Prophecy, the selection of press photos was not the best, can you spot the difference between the two photos?

We have so far about 45 reviews, which are all 9-out-of-10, and in the magazines soundchecks we are constantly in the top 5.

They also have our review on their site and it is 6 of 7 so it is in the same ballpark it would seem and for our reviewer it is the best album so far by Mystic Prophecy, something RD neither confirms nor denies when it comes to his opinion in that matter. He says that he will leave such judgements to the fans who buy the albums.

- Saying that the new album is better than the previous ones could be wrong because we always give our best in all the albums we've made so far but you should also have in mind what

the magazines reviews say: that the band comes back even stronger every time.

But what does good reviews really mean for a band? I think it is very different depending on which band you ask, some bands don't give a damn about what reviews say, while others seems to care quite a bit. Which is why I took the liberty of asking RD what a good review such as our own really means to him.

- I would like to thank you for your kind words, it's always nice to have such great reviews. It surely makes you feel that it was worth all the hard work but it is also the best way to make you realise that you have a long way to go yet and that there's strong-

er things to do in the future. So reviews are always a great challenge for making something better every time.

#### Ravenlord Tour & the Fans

Earlier RD said he could not wait to get out and play live, but will the band be doing any touring to promote the 'Ravenlord' album? According to RD they will and on their website you can read about the to date confirmed tour dates and locations and it is taking the band to new frontiers.

- We have confirmed tour dates in Germany, Austria and Switzerland in March and April, and more are on the way, plus we have confirmed our participation in the US Prog Power Metal

Festival along with Symphony-X and Pretty Maids, this is our first time playing in the US and we're really happy about it. We're also planning some shows in Asia, we'll announce them as soon as they're confirmed.

As Mystic Prophecy believe that their biggest asset as a band is their fans they wouldn't manage to keep it all together without them.

- We owe it all to them, for supporting us warmly for all these years. We always want to be very honest when we play live, that's why we make our songs have the best impact when we are in concert and concentrate on giving the best performance to our fans.

Remember to check out the

band's website in order to know when they are playing near you if you are interested in seeing the band live. Mystic Prophecy's 'Ravenlord' is available now where music is sold, and it comes highly recommended from just about every reviewer out there, even from Hallowed's own overly critical reviewer. With that I say thank you to Mystic Prophecy and RD Lipakis for speaking with us and leave the final comment to him.

- I believe that everybody who knows Mystic Prophecy and watch the band's career they know that we always show our best in every new album, actually better every time. For us quality in songwriting and sound is ab-

solutely crucial and there's not a chance that we let our fans down with any musical experiments. The new Mystic Prophecy album has got balls, power, melodies, fast and mid-tempo songs, anything a metal fan needs to be happy.

#### Useful addresses and links

<http://www.mysticprophecy.net>  
hallowed's review of Ravenlord  
hallowed's review of Fireangel

#### Discography:

2002: Vengeance  
2003: Regressus  
2004: Neverending  
2006: Savage Souls  
2007: Satanic Curses  
2009: Fireangel  
2011: Ravenlord