

ONE WITHOUT



Swedish One Without chose after releasing their debut to go for a release of their second album on their own, but maybe not in the way you would expect. Many bands today chose to create their own labels and release their own albums through an established distributor but One Without is instead releasing their album for free for each and everyone to download from the band's website. There is also the possibility to buy the album through different distributors who sell music on file, the album named Sweet Relief will also be possible to order from the band's website as a regular CD.

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PHOTO BY DANIEL BÄVERNÄS, ROBERT PALM AND PROMO PHOTOS
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This entire thing is a little bit like a complete turnaround for a band that last time I spoke with them didn't even want to put complete songs up on Myspace and that was before even releasing their first album. What might trigger such a turnaround? According to

Joonas Niskanen, guitarist, it is due to a corrupt business where "everyone else" is supposed to earn money on their music.

- It feels like a really drastic measure is needed for this problem. We are not those who have ever seen the music a money making business but to get everything into it, including touring and play music fully, that is a quite fundamental thing that has to work.

- Back then there was more like a contract was more of something one should have which we had in the back of our minds, but after being on a label of LifeForce's stature, and really see and feel what it is and how things work behind the scenes it unfortunately felt like we would have done it much better ourselves. It was not that fun to learn that the label didn't care about the band but only what they could earn from us,

and that it still were only us who did all the work on the promotional bit.

And according to Joonas the interest for the new album has been quite big and already now the band has earned more money than on the prior album which was released by Lifeforce records.

- That only points towards a lack of interest from the side of the label in spending energy and money on promotion, they'd rather earn as much as possible with as little effort as possible.

As said they do earn some money on the album as well, no millions yet however, Joonas explain and says that he is logging on to check the numbers on how many that are actually downloading the album.

It is not only the number of downloads that is a positive thing for One Without, the response from the media has also been positive and the band has gotten good reviews.

- Very good response from media all over the world with ratings we could only have dreamed about. Sure, there are some that has liked it a bit less but still not given any bad ratings, Joonas explains.

Sweet Relief

Aggressive, deep and beautiful is how Joonas describe Sweet Relief and also describes it as the album that should have been their first but that it may not be that illogical that Thoughts of a Secluded Mind became the band's debut in 2009.

- One mostly gathers the best songs from a longer period for the debut which we also did. Therefore, there are some differences with the new record taking a more technical direction than the first, but one still hear that it is the same band, explains Joonas.

And it is not only the musical



that is differing between the two albums, also the making off was different explains Joonas.

- Yes, it was a really long process as we recorded demo versions on everything beforehand. We had a quite good vision as to how we wanted it to sound at a very early state of development of this record, and we succeeded really well with that.

Personally I think Sweet Relief

is a clear improvement although maybe not a giant one compared with the previous album with its more mature sound that the writer see as better than the previous album. The ratings at Hallowed for these two album were the same but that does not necessarily mean that they are equally good. Joonas has the same opinion and on the question if Sweet Relief is better than Thoughts



of a Secluded Mind he answers with a definitive yes.

- But we are absolutely not displeased with the first album, he has to add.

I personally find no reason for him to be displeased with the debut either as it is a really good album in my opinion. When we move to the songs Joonas does not want to select a favourite as he cannot make up his mind.

- I can still not choose a favourite, one moment it is one song and the next it is another, all down to the mood.

Joonas also adds that he does not dislike any of the tracks on the album and that it feels like they have gotten what they wanted.

One Without have always lived with the hopes of being a touring band and they have toured with Evergrey, Katatonia och The Genitorturers as well as stood on festival stages and played live

on Swedish radio so they cannot be said to be completely inexperienced in that department, but Joonas says that it is something of a catch 22 in the music business at the moment which makes things a bit more difficult for them in this department.

- If it were up to us we would play every day all over the world for everyone, Joonas points out.

Ending

When I first interviewed the band (unfortunately that article is only in Swedish), they had not yet released their debut album but had of course been playing for a while together. Joonas explains that they have evolved very much during the time they've been playing together and that they are all very skilled musicians and that he is really proud to be part of such a good group.

The way that Sweet Relief was released was undoubtedly

quite different but the question is whether or not they will keep releasing their music the same way in the future, Joonas has no idea about what the future will hold.

- It is very much so that the future of the music business that dictates how we still have to do. We would absolutely not say no to a record deal that looks alright but as it is now they are quite far from okay.

That of course mean that we will have to wait and see what happens, simple as that, and with that we cannot do much else than thank Joonas for his time and answers.

Joonas himself ends with with some encouragements to look up some things:

- Thanks to all that has taken their time to read this :) Visit the website and download the album! www.onewithout.com or check the new video for the single Pretender at www.youtube.com/one-withoutsweden