



MELTED SPACE

Often it seems that french people are not the best when it comes to speaking English. Pierre La Pape the main man of Melted Space sees himself as one of those not so prominent at the English language, at least not in spoken form as he did apologise for his poor spoken English. In written form his stories work rather well and the music is good according to our review. Therefore it was interesting to speak with this man who found time to speak with us about what is happening in the melted space while parking next to a freeway.

So what is happening in the melted space world? A new EP called "Between" has seen the light of day a while ago and the work of a new album is in its infancy. But let us forego that information for a while as I doubt that many of you know this band so let us present *Melted Space*. It was a personal project by Le Pape that was created in 2007 as something of a school project where he could work on his production and composition.

- I released a first album, an instrumental one that was a home production that was only released for my family and for my friends.

Then about two years after that the *Melted Space* opera was founded, it was a long project from the first stroke of the pen until the album finally saw the light of day in 2012.

- First I composed one song with several voices and four years later I had completed the album.

An album called "From the Past", a real opera with thirty musicians helping Pierre. A big project for one man, especially one with apparently little experience in the business. It worked out fine and now the small album "Between" is out. One might think that metal operas are mainly for crazy German guys and dutch gentlemen, so why does a french guy try his hand on such a complex venture?

- It came naturally because it was that musical form that I had in my head and I wanted to create real emotive and really massive project. Like a movie, with many characters so the opera was the only musical form for me. I also have a classical education and

knew operas like Don Juan by Mozart or the Wagner ones and as I am also a fan of Ayreon and Avantasia I knew that it already exists in metal so I created mine.

But of course there are challenges working with so many people, one of which is time required as it is not something that comes easily with all people involved and their schedules. Pierre

says that the experience from the first album has made it easier for him to work on this second effort, then he managed about thirty people so he thinks he knows how to manage it better nowadays.

- It is not very difficult but it takes a long time because of the schedules for all those people it can be difficult to plan it but it is not difficult to do. There is a lot



of waiting involved. For example I had to work over a year with "Between" from the first contacts was taken until it was all finished. But last time it was four years so now it is faster.

Between

The most recent project "Between" features prominent guests like Liv Kristine of *Leave's Eyes*

and Ashmedi of *Melechesh* as well as some other not so well known guests. "Between" is what the name indicates, an interlude between the debut album and the next album. It tells a story in the established *Melted Space* world.

- The story is about Romulus and Remus the founders of Rome and they talk about the human story in the melted space where

they can live as brothers and so on. At the same time there is Liv Kristine who is She-Wolf, she speaks with Janus the two-faced god who wants to make her a true god. I will detail the true god concept in the next album.

Pierre explains that the stories on "Between" are short stories to develop this world of the *Melted Space* and also develop the interactions between the characters of the story. It builds background for the main story.

For making such interaction you also need actors to play the roles of the characters, such as said Liv Kristine and Ashmedi who are the major names present on "Between". But how to select these characters? Pierre explains that it begins at the idea stage where he gets the idea on how the role should be presented.

- Then when writing the story and composing the music this idea is growing and then finally I know who I want to sing it.

And as most of the singers are friends of Pierre he doesn't have too much trouble getting them to join his little operatic quest.

- I played with many of them in bands or have met them on stage. On Liv Kristine and Ashmedi, I am a great fan of theirs. I asked Liv and we met up when she came to Paris last year with *Leave's Eyes* and we had an hour backstage where we talked about the project and her character as well as how to plan the recordings. I came to the Mastersound studio last December and it was an amazing day for me because as a fan I saw her singing my songs and it was absolutely great.

Ashmedi was contacted by Pierre's publisher and he was quick to accept due to him liking the song and they subsequently had discussions on how to mix his voice and some other ideas of his and according to Pierre it turned out well and he also states

that he found it amazing to work with Ashmedi and Liv Kristine.

But what about the songs? are they tailored to fit the singer? According to Pierre it is a bit of both, the material for Liv Kristine was written with her in mind so you could say it was written for her. The material for Ashmedi was not written specifically for him but could have been as Pierre explains that he wanted a singer with diversity to be able to sing different voices and Ashmedi fitted that bill perfectly.

More Between

Pierre says that "Between" turned out to be better than he could have expected and that is according to his reckonings down to the qualities of the producer Axel Wursthorn whom he describes as a good guy.

- He knows where I want to go with my music. And from the first demos to the final result there is a big gain and it turned out better than it was in my head.

Pierre explains that he is very happy with the result, especially the voices. He thinks Ashmedi, Liv Kristine and the other vocalists did an excellent job on this mini album. But it was not only the vocals, also the acoustic songs was something he really liked.

- I rediscovered my own songs working with the guitarist who did it, a nice surprise for me.

Compared with the album before, there is a big evolution for "Between". This time, Pierre explains that he had the opportunity to try some new things and ways to write in difference to taking his time on the debut. This led to more direct songs and more focus on the songs rather than on the album as a whole.

- This is more direct, I wrote real songs because on "From the Past" I wrote some songs in a big opera. On "Between" the songs are not as connected together so

you can listen to them more separately which is not really possible with "From the Past" that you must hear from beginning to end.

Pierre thinks that "Between" can be a good introduction to **Melted Space** because of the fairly short playing time.

- I think that people who hear it will discover **Melted Space**, people who already know **Melted Space** will not be disappointed and the new ones will probably want to discover the other stuff as well. I am also happy with it because it is something that I wanted to do because "From the Past" took a lot of energy and a lot of time so I wanted to make something shorter and lighter.

New album & touring

So, what about the future? According to Pierre a new album is in the works, something he hopes to be able to do in the near future.

- I would like to compose it in the coming months but I have a lot of work with tours and my other bands as well. So I don't know when, it is too far to make any predictions.

Even though he doesn't know when, Pierre has already contacted some singers about the new project so he explains that he is thinking about it but that he has a lot of thinking to go through before turning ideas into a story.

- I have to think a lot before starting to compose and then I have to talk with many people like singers, musicians as well as my producer. There is quite a bit of work before. I have a few ideas but I don't know the songs and that yet but I can tell you that it will be a real story in the melted space, like a movie.

In the nearer future for **Melted Space** lies something different, something other than a new album. Pierre will take the project out on tour, an exciting prospect considering how well **Star One**





did a few years back or what Avantasia did as well. Now it is time for Pierre and a few friends to take **Melted Space** on tour.

- We will tour in France, Switzerland and Belgium during this fall, in October. I really hope that we will have the opportunity to tour in Europe or play in festivals. The real project for the rest of the year is to create something live with **Melted Space**, something that I hope I can share with many people and that they will like

it. It is a challenge to put to the stage because I am alone in the project but I will play with some of the people who played on the albums and I will also play with some new musicians and singer so I am very happy for that.

In other words there is a lot of **Melted Space** to look forward to if you have found the project interesting, first touring and later a new big metal opera album. "Between", the mini album out recently was well received by us

at **Hallowed** and the bigger opera "From the Past" also seems to have been well received by the media so for the fans of **Ayreon** or **Avantasia** this might be something to look at. Check out the sites on the web for more information on where and when you can see **Melted Space** live. Some useful links below.

Our review of **Between Melted Space** on **Reverbnation**
Melted Space on **Youtube**



Ashmedi - promo photo from Nuclear Blast