



They have now managed ten albums, the band known as Mystic Prophecy and RD Liapakis or Lia as he is also called has been around making his stuff and singing his heart out on all of them. The tenth album was released a few weeks ago and it is called "Metal Division" an album that goes back to the roots and was praised by us here at Hallowed, we have been speaking with Lia about it.



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In a way Mystic Prophecy have been looking backwards when making this new album that according to Liapakis is back to the roots.

- We recorded the whole tracks on an old ADAT TASCAM band machine. Of course this took

more time, but the result is totally worth the effort. You can hear it living and breathing, no over-compressing, just in your face.

And it apparently pays off as the album has been praised by everyone according to Lia, both media and fans have been impressed with their latest effort. That is also underlined by the album reaching the charts in several countries, number twenty in Germany and second place in the

Greek iTunes charts.

- Thank you for this! Says Lia when counting the successes of Mystic Prophecy's latest effort.

In the review our writer claimed that "Metal Division" sounds familiar to those who know Mystic Prophecy, and that it is one of their heaviest efforts to date. Lia doesn't usually compare with other albums.

- Each one has its own vibes. Sure, talking about Mystic Prop-

hecy, you get what you pay for. That's how it should be. After 20 years we wanted to show the bands abilities to make a damn great album in all its facets and diversity, be it mid- or up-tempo and thrash metal songs.

Speaking of the songs, our reviewer didn't mention a favourite and surprisingly enough Lia didn't want to pick one either.

- To me, all the songs are great, otherwise I wouldn't have picked

them for the album. At the moment, I can't say yet which is my favourite, it's too new. Maybe after a bit of time I might like one or two more than the others, but for now, all songs matter the same to me.

New Label & Cover

"Metal Division" sees Mystic Prophecy moving to a new label, they are exchanging Massacre whom they have been collabo-

rating with for twelve years and seven albums for Rock of Angels Records or ROAR! As they are often called. That change in label has no dramatic undertones or anything like that.

- We thought it was time for a change. Simple as that.

So what about ROAR? Is it a good label to work with? They seem to be growing and gaining strength with more and more releases, Liapakis thinks that they



are right for **Mystic Prophecy** right now.

- ROAR is still hungry and on fire. For them, putting out records is not this 9 to 5 job routine thing. They work very closely with their bands, side by side, and have lots of great ideas. And they feature many great bands on their roster, Ashes Of Ares or Monument, to name a few. And they work hard for each of them. It feels good knowing you're not just "band number x", they let you feel their energy and enthusiasm. They

want to push ahead, and that's exactly what we needed for this album.

Anyone knowing Mystic Prophecy or who have seen this album knows that the band has dramatic artworks and this one is no different. It is made by Stan W. Decker who has plenty of rocking artworks on his CV and the idea for it comes from Lia.

- I had that idea for quite some time already, Hades, god of the underworld, with his Cerberus. Subject and colours were very

important. That's why we chose working with Stan W. In my opinion, his abilities to work out the colours are pretty unique.

Feedback & touring

The feedback for the album has been very positive according to Lia and a quick web search gives a similar impression that the album is generally very well-liked by fans and media alike. For a band it is important to be liked by fans but how about being well reviewed, like from our reviewer

who gave a good rating, is that important?

- Yes, 5 out of 7 points is very cool, thanks a lot for that! Obviously, you got a good taste haha! Of course, reviews are still important and help the fans to decide which new albums they are going to buy. But in the end, it's them to see if they like it or not or if the music fits them. Social media or iTunes and other streaming platforms make it much easier for them to take a glimpse and make their decision.

On the subject of feedback and fans, touring is something where the bands interact with their fans and Mystic Prophecy just got back from touring in support of their new album. Lia explains that the shows were well attended and that they are satisfied with the shows and enjoyed rockin' out with their fans. And it is quite an experience rocking with the Mystic Prophecy guys.

- Those who know Mystic Prophecy, know that we are a pure live band. All songs are written

to be played live. This is our element, that's what we love most. And we are giving everything to give the best for our fans. Making them feel our energy and feeling theirs in return, that's the fuel for the engine called Mystic Prophecy. So, if you come to one of our shows, be prepared for 60-90 minutes full of power and pure Heavy Metal. Make sure your neck is well trained.

What kind of shows would Lia most like to entertain those well-trained necks at then? Like myself



it seems that he prefers smaller shows in general but there is also room for some festivals on the bucket list.

- There are loads of cool big festivals on this planet, but after all I'm more a fan of club shows. Fans and band get closer to each other. To me, that means a lot more. What else would tempt me? Well, I think it would be interesting how it was playing in Woodstock back in the days and

to experience this kind of flair. Of course, the Sweden Rock Festival would be cool to play, that's still on our bucket list.

A band once said to me that playing on the moon would be a dream, I guess heavy metal guys have slightly less ambitious or more down to earth dream venues. And while they have Sweden Rock on their bucket lists they haven't visited us up here in Scandinavia for many years,

last time was 2008, so if you are a Scandinavian booker, it could be a plan to check with these guys, they probably have a few fans in Scandinavia, at least some webzines here like them.

Final words

Mystic Prophecy and Lia has been around for quite a while now, their debut album was released in the early 2000s and it has been ten albums counting this one

and to that you can add a cover album from 2018. Two decades as Mystic Prophecy where Lia is the only founding member left and Markus Pohl is the second longest lasting in a band that has seen many members come and go over the years. Over these years Lia probably have learnt many things but to follow the dream is the first thing he points out when asked what he has learnt during his time in Mystic Prophecy.

- Never to give up on what you love and what you dream of. Music means everything to me. Heavy Metal is a way of life, not just a trend. A part of my life which I will take with me to my grave.

"Metal Division" is out now and available as CD, LP or digital download, you can check our review on the site to sample this newest effort by this band. And with that I leave the ending to Lia.

- Folks, keep on supporting this kind of music! Be it by going to concerts or buying CDs. Without you, our loyal fans, a band is just a big nothing and not able to survive. You are the METAL DIVISION!

A few links

Our review of Metal Division
mysticprophecy.net
ROAR! Rock of Angels Records