



RED ROSE

They hail from Israel and they play hard rock or metal, something that might not be the first things to connect when thinking of rock music and nations.

They have recently released their second album called On the Cusp of Change which was well received here at Hallowed and we were a little bit curious about the band and their music which is why it was so fortunate that we got to speak with Eli Reeve who plays the bass in the band and the first thing I asked was why they call themselves Red Rose...



WRITTEN BY DANIEL KÄLLMALM
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- The band name was suggested by our vocalist - Leve Laiter. And we took this name without any doubts, 'cause it really represents us - we play melodic harmony (some kind of romantic) music like the beauty of the roses, but with strong sound like the thorns.

Above is Eli's reply to the first question about the name of this

band, a band that is a four-piece consisting of Leve Laiter - vocals, Elnur Aliev - guitars, Deion Kristen - keyboards, and Eli Reeve on the bass. And these guys had a few years of experience playing in different bands before joining together to form Red Rose, Leve, Deion and Eli all played in the same band while Elnur's past shows for a more advanced and heavy outfit which recorded a self financed album before hitting rough times about the same time

as the other three quarters of the band's half and both these bands disbanded and from that Red Rose was formed. The fact that Elnur came from heavier music was nothing that troubled the band as they all had a great love for melodies and such, explains Eli and points out that they all clicked together and soon found themselves working at realising their dream of a debut album.

That debut album saw the light of day in 2011 and was called

"Live the Life You've Imagined", an album that appears to have been fairly well received without maybe the highest ratings anywhere. A decent debut most seemed to be thinking about the album, an album with music that is, according to Eli, a combination of styles.

Our music is a combination of many styles, from classic Rock 'n' Roll to more complex Progressive Metal. We mix genres in a completely natural way and are not

doing this on purpose. The main thing to make it sound interesting and fresh.

In reviews around the web I have noticed that the band's music is called a combination of Halloween and Dream Theater but there has also been comparisons with others and I personally think a lot about Royal Hunt when hearing the music of Red Rose and funnily enough said Danish band is an inspiration to Red Rose along with some other stuff.

- Each of us has his own main inspiration sources, this is why the music we wrote turned out to be varied, sparkling with different elements even in one single song. But we also have common favourite bands like Royal Hunt, Dream Theater, Queen, Scorpions, Deep Purple, Black Sabbath, and so on. Classics of rock and metal are the real influence for us I think.

Orphaned Land might also be one of those inspirations, I know



a few Israeli bands and musicians like Yossi Sassi, Orphaned Land and perhaps one or two more over Red Rose, but how is it to be a hard rocking band in Israel?

- You're right, this is not a typical place for this music, it is hard for musicians to live in Israel actually. Because there is not enough space here to gather big audiences, not enough space for touring, but there are many good bands here. We just hope that the rock-metal movement will come out from the underground and expand in the future.

On the Cusp of Change
The second album of Red Rose

is called "On the Cusp of Change" and it saw the light of day in the dying days of february this year. Like the debut it was written, conceived and recorded in just nine months, both times from january to september. Eli describes it as having a baby so it is like they have gotten two babies in three years which is a fairly good achievement by this still very young band (or family if you prefer) who has been around only since 2010.

This new album has taken its title from a line in the opening song (*When Roses Faded*) and it is an album of pompousness and also a conceptual album.

- The concept of the album has developed as we began thinking of a major theme to unite the songs under one title, and of course we couldn't ignore the pompous "the end of the world" issue. But we wanted to approach it from a global perspective of prophecies which lead us to traditions that pass on from one generation to another, that's how *When Roses Faded* was born; although it touches many other issues as well (like father-son relationship or conservatism versus free thinking). This song was the seed from which the others were developed - directly or indirectly and the album kind of evolved

like a tree. It is not telling one story that can be traced from the first song to the last but it is thematic and has one line passing through the entire work, with feelings and thoughts that "the end of the world" issue may bring.

Our review was telling a lot about the melodic sides of things, also something of a touch of *Royal Hunt* but nothing about how it compares to the first album, so how does it compare to the debut album?

- The new album is much more difficult in the compositional sense. As one of the listeners says in his commentary on the album - "It's more mature work." I think

it's true. However, we have tried to keep the ease of our melodies and atmosphere perception of the songs from the first album. We try to bring the best from our debut album to another level.

So, did it take the best from that debut to another level?

- The debut album sounded not quite as much as we wanted. The keys were in many places left in the background when they should have been in the front. In this album, this is not the case. All is in place, as it should be. And of course I'm happy with the new songs. We did a great job and I think it was a big step forward for us.

Another thing that strikes me about this album is the cover artwork which is quite interesting and exciting, but how much influence did the band have over this? Not so much it would appear.

- This is all the merit of our wonderful artist - Jobert Mello. We only propose an idea on the effect of the human mind has from the thought of the impending "end of the world", and he immediately got the idea. A few months later he sent us a us first test sketch and we just liked it as it was, of course he make final touches to the cover but the idea came to reality very fast.



And going over the album like this, are the band pleased with the result that became "On the Cusp of Change"? Eli says that while there are always things to improve, they are quite pleased with what they have accomplished but also that they know that there are much more to be reached out for in the future and that is what they are looking to be doing.

- We are definitely satisfied by the result, we reached a new level in the musical complexity as well as in songwriting and in the performance. Each of us had a

chance to experience new things in this album - both technical and artistic and I think that as we write new songs we are getting closer to what *Red Rose* is all about.

If you want to, you can read that like they are setting out to be evolving and discover new things with each and every album they release, as they in their own opinion has done so far and will be looking to do in the future as well. So, let us now move to what others think of this album in the next chapter.

Critics and live shows

Chapter three, the critics and some other stuff. What does the critics think about "On the Cusp of Change"? In our publication it was well received with a strong recommendation to buy the album, but what about the others? A web search rendered mainly positive reviews, some really positive while some others were a bit less so, I could however not find anyone that was really negative so it seems they have done quite well with the internet reviewers. This sentiment is shared by

Eli as well.

- The reaction of album reviewers is mixed. Some feedbacks are very good, and some are less. But all of them admit the band's improvement. And if we speak of regular listeners, our fans, meanwhile all of the comments were very positive and inspiring. Anyway we are looking forward to see the real reception for this album on stage.

In the *Hallowed* review of this webzine it was concluded that *Alone in the Night* and *Seize the Day* were the best song, the re-

views around the net was naming almost any of the songs on the album, so which is the favourite of Eli?

- This is a really difficult question, it's like asking a father to choose which of their children he loves the most. All the songs are very different and for different moods, *When Roses Faded* is perfect for the person who chose progressive metal and complex compositions. *Chasing Freedom* is a more contemporary song with echoes of our debut album. *King of the Local Crowd* is a classic rock

'n' roll song - very catchy and lively. I don't know, definitely, I love them all.

I guess you can call it the typical musician's answer to that question but how about the touring? It is something they are working on and the dream is to be playing around Europe which is something they are hoping will be possible this time, what they do have are some local shows in the near future. I guess that their website or something like that is the way to stay updated on such facts.

If one is to visit a live show with Red Rose, what can one expect to be seeing? A band that loves to play live according to Eli.

- We love the live shows very much, there's nothing better than a live energy on stage. We are trying to play as similarly as possible to the recordings but with more power and performance in the live shows.

Some live shows are in the calendar for the band and for the near future the goal is to get out and play live as much as possible, a video clip is in the works as well but that is something you have to keep track of from the band's website and so on.

With that we leave Red Rose and their new album for you to discover and look closer at in case you have had your curiosity spiked by this article, and we leave you with these final words from Eli:

- We hope you will like this album and it will bring new positive emotions and inspiration to you. And see you soon!

Red Rose on the web

A Hallowed review
<http://www.redrose.co.il>
on myspace
on youtube

