

Interview: Glittertind
Made for www.metal.de
Questions: Proserpine
Answers: Torbjørn

01.) How is the feedback to your new album so far? Are the reactions (reviews, listeners, whatever) different from the Scandinavians and from the people who live in other parts of the world?

This is my first album release so I don't know what is good or bad response.. hehe.. But my record label is very pleased! I am extremely satisfied myself and overwhelmed by the great response I have got from both listeners and reviewers! I have done a bunch of interviews so things are doing well! The response has been very good in Sweden and Norway. I don't really know about the rest of Scandinavia though, hehe.. But the response in UK, Germany and the Netherlands has also been very good! And I must say it is pretty much the same reactions which come from abroad and from Sweden and Norway even if the foreigners don't read Norwegian. Our brains are working pretty much the same way! Hehe.. However I have noticed that many reviewers between 30 and 50 years are extremely positive to my record, while reviewers under 20 years are more negative and sceptic. I take that as a compliment because these elder guys know a whole lot more what music is really about, and understand my expression and band concept a lot better. They understand that a record doesn't have to have a \$100.000 budget, to be "good". A good record is reflecting honest and true music!

02.) Most of the songs are already a bit older and if I am not mistaken only „Norges Skaal“ is written in 2004. Are you still satisfied with your old songs or would you change them nowadays?

The record is recorded between 2001 and 2002 when I was 16-17 years old. I also did a "bonus" recorded this year which was "Norges Skaal" because the other songs have been found on my earlier demos. If I rerecorded the old songs today, than they would probably sound different and more mature. However I like them the way they are because they are reflecting my true feelings and capacity as a 17 year old. That is also what makes my record so original. No one has said "you can't to this and that". I have just done what I felt was right and that led to a recording agreement!

03.) I think "Norges Skaal" sounds a bit more mature than the other songs. Especially the vocals are a bit more "aggressive" if you like or are there not so many differences in your point of view?

My voice has become deeper and more mature as you say. This "bonus song" has also a better production. However I wanted to continue in the same style as the other songs on "Evige Asatro" even though this song is recorded two years later and I think I managed that! By the way this song got played on the greatest Norwegian hardrock radio-show! It's also a great song to put on when you have a party because it is really a drinking-song from 1771. Translated to English the song title means: "The Cheers to Norway".

04.) You are the only member of Glittertind... is it not difficult to write, arrange, record and master the songs completely alone? Do you sometimes miss "a helping hand"?

Yes, I sometimes miss a helping hand but it is difficult to find people who can be involved in this project. It demands a true dedication and I defiantly don't want to involve people who don't understand the music and band concept! However I will try to find a drummer and Henri Sorvalli (Moonsorrow) will do some synths on my next album!

05.) You are 'just' 19 years old, but already inked a deal with Karmageddon Media. That is quite successful if I might say so. ;) Do you have other aims you like to reach with Glittertind?

Yes, it's great to be on Karmageddon Media and have decent distribution and promotion of my music! I hope to get in touch with the right people who could be interested in developing Glittertind further and to build up a good live band as well. I know that is hard, but hope someday it will happen. My current goal is to get out another record and I am currently doing the pre-production for this one! So first things first!

06.) You started Glittertind as teenager and were probably interested in Norwegian history since you were a little kid. I don't think that many Norwegian youngsters think about their history that way... or is that rather common in Norway?

Most Norwegians are very proud to be Norwegian. We are also one of the few countries which still stay out of EU. We want to be independent and unions have never worked out very well for us since we are a small country. But these are changing times and globalization and internationalism is also taking us like a storm. Urban youngsters doesn't care much about their cultural heritage, but on the countryside Norwegian culture still live on and I hope it will do that forever!

07.) Glittertind is a mixture of punk, metal and folk. Do those genres interest you most or why have you combined them, which is not that usual I think. Could you imagine playing just ONE style..or have you been in other bands before where you played maybe only metal?

When I founded Glittertind I mainly listened to these styles and they all inspired me and influenced me. I have listened to bands like Bad Religion since I went to primary school, on secondary school I started to listen to metal and I have always liked Nordic folkmusic, so it just fell naturally for me to do this! I have played in metal and punk bands before I founded Glittertind. It's is the great energy which I think is great with these styles!

08.) I was a bit surprised to find out that the melody of your song "Se Norges blomsterdal" is based on the German song "Ein Jäger aus Kurpfalz". I am not that familiar with that kind of German songs (hihi), but of course I know the melody. I think it's quite strange that you used it... is that song so popular in Norway? ;) What was your intention to use it?

That's right! The song is not that well known in Norway these days, but it was sung every spring in every school 10-15 years ago and before that! With my version of the song I hope it can live on for some more years...But first of all I did this because of that the lyrics in Norwegian are brilliant, and the music is of course awesome! But you can also consider it as a tribute to the cultural elite (i.e. Novalis, Schelling, Herder and the Grimm brothers) of Germany at the end of 1700 which had a deep and important impact on the Norwegian cultural-elite at that time. Thanks to the ideas from the German romantic époque, the "upper-class" (They were the one who had the education to write down things) started to look into Norwegian culture at the countryside (in the cities the culture was Danish because of 400 years in "union" with them) and it was not anymore considered "dirty", "cheap" and for the "lower-classes". They started to look upon the Norwegian folk culture as a treasure and they got a positive relationship between man and nature. They also started to write down folksongs, folktales etc. because people were now moving into the cities because of the dawning industrialism. The old knowledge had been given orally from father to son, mother to daughter, but in the cities families got divided, they worked a lot and people got drunk all the time to escape from the dreadful conditions.(There were no unions)...I have a lot to thank Herder and the other Germans in Lübeck for. They woke up our cultural elite at that time and made them save great pieces of our culture (and of course woke up other Europeans to save their culture in other parts of Europe)! Which I indeed, and many others, are happy for today!

09.) The cover was made by Skrymer of Finntroll. Why have you asked him to draw it?

I contacted Skrymer (Finntroll) because I know that he is an expert in catching the mood of Northern environment. I have seen his work with Finntroll and other bands, so I really knew that he was the guy for the job. I sent him my material and what I had in mind for the front-cover. It had to fit the term "Evige Asatro" (In English "Eternal belief in Æsirs" which is Thor and Odin etc.). If you look on the elements on the cover, they are all there. All from Nordic nature, to Odin, dragon-ship, two ravens in the sky, the stars and the fullmoon, storming seas, a viking, Norse art-pattern etc. He has really done a brilliant job, and I consider him being an art-genius!!

10.) Do you have a favourite song on „Evige Asatro“? I can't really name one, but I really like "En stille morgen - 1349" because lyrics and music are brilliant! But I also like faster songs like "Karl den store"... so what is your fave?

I like all the songs in each different way, but my favourite is "Lindisfarne-793/Karl den Store" because that song pretty much represents this album and what it really is about. Here you have the mix between folk, metal and punk. That song also explains the history behind the Viking assaults on Lindisfarne Island in 793 and that this was a war between religions. The Vikings were not some simple minded barbarians which tried to destroy so called "civilization". They wanted to eliminate a foreign threat and give them the message "stay out of our countries and keep your religion for yourself"...

11.) Your songs have little notes in English in the booklet so everybody can understand what your songs are about. Is it important for you that the listeners know what you sing about? Do you like to spread messages...and if so, will there be more English lyrics? (I think Norwegian is

better anyway ;))

I think that is very important and it's something I will continue with! I like to spread messages and to challenge peoples' opinions and thoughts through my music. However I will stick to Norwegian because when I sing about Scandinavia it is not natural to sing in any other language than a Scandinavian language, but a song or two in English will be found on my next record so that it will be a bit easier for foreigners to get an understanding of my music and lyrics.

12.) Your lyrics are quite different in each song I think. "I Norden skulle bare hedninger bo" and other parts or whole songs sound kinda antichristian but on the other hand there are also lyrics about Mother Nature (song "Fjellheimen gir meg fred") or about the life of your ancestors. Which topics are your favourites? Do you notice a change in your interests concerning your lyrics over the years?

It is pretty much the same things that interest me these days. I think that it is important to try to deliver an honest and interesting message to the listener. I don't have any favourite topic, but there are so much different to write about because my lyrical concept is to hail Northern culture, history and nature in different ways. If I manage to involve the listener in my music and lyrics than I have achieved what I want to achieve!

13.) I think your lyrics are very nice and "entertaining" when people are interested in Norwegian culture etc. Have you already thought about writing a whole book about your thoughts and ideas? I would be your first reader! ;) Or are books not of your business?

It's cool that you like my lyrics and that you understand Norwegian! And of course I read books! What would man be without them? People read too little these days... However I don't know about writing a book myself though! I think I am too young and have to experience more of life to make that interesting enough. I'll look into it again in twenty years and stick to lyrics and music for now...hehehe..

14.) You probably will never play your music live. Or do you plan to get some session musicians? Does it interest you to play concerts at all?

I want to play gigs and promote my band like any other band want to. However I don't want my band to turn in a direction that I don't want, so therefore it is important to have band members with the right attitude and understanding of the band's concept. I think that after I have released my next record, then people will understand fully what this project are all about and that will hopefully attract the right type of musicians to get in touch! We'll see if that proves me right!

15.) Are there already a few new songs or ideas for the next album? Tell me about it! ;)

The next record will be more "metal" but it will still have some punk elements, and of course lot of folk elements! There will be a better production this time and Trollhorn from Finntrull will participate on synths on some songs. I will not say too much, other than I think this record will defiantly find its way home to every northern heart!!!

16.) Do you have any last words or a message to our readers?

Check out "Evige Asatro" in your local recordstore and play it for friends and foes if you like it!! I raise my wooden pint of beer and shout out prost to all you who have read through this interview! Take care until next time...