



GEGENWIND

PORTAL DLA FANÓW NIEMIECKIEJ MUZYKI

On November the 16th we had the chance to interview Rammstein coverband – Stahlzeit – shortly before their concert in Columbiahalle. Here is what they have to say about performances, Rammstein music and how do they get their gear.

Gegenwind: *How is that you have become a tribute band? Were you Rammstein fans?*

Mike Sitzmann (guitarist): I listened a lot to Rammstein when I was young. Later on – it was just from time to time, not with the same intensity. Now in Stahlzeit we are filled to the brim with Rammstein music (laughs).

Ron Huber (keyboards): I have actually begun to listen to Rammstein because I joined its tributeband (laughs).

GWD: *Rammstein is well known for their stage show – have you ever got any problems with controlling all of these elements? Were there any dangerous situations with pyrotechnics?*

Ron: You have to know what do you do, pay attention to where and when the flames come out. Also – where and when to stand. It is some sort of „controlled danger” – a natural part of the show, which goes on even if you are not playing any instrument. We don't recall however any major threat.

Mike: There is always a danger to some extent, but so far nothing that could have frightened us happened. Of course, there are some minor burns, but if you play as Stahlzeit for 15 years, you do not pay attention to such things.

GWD: *During one of the previous interviews your friend, René Anlauff (Völkerball coverband) admitted that before the show he prepared himself in mirror-rooms – just like ballerinas do and this is how he had learned on how to act like Till Lindemann. It took him 4-5 years. Do you also prepare so intensely or you have different methods?*

Mike: We might not prepare so intensely, like in front of the mirror, but yes – we do observe Rammstein live and learn their stage moves. Now we perform automatically some of them. Of course – we do not copy everything 1:1 – we have our own style and show.

Ron: If – metaphorically speaking – someone „leaves” his own body to act like someone else, then, in the long run, he might stop being himself and lose his authenticity. I do think however that Heli might practice just like you describe this. He is the frontman after all and plays Till Lindemann role. He has definitely more work to do than we.



GEGENWIND

PORTAL DLA FANÓW NIEMIECKIEJ MUZYKI

GWD: *Performing which Rammstein song is the most fun for you?*

Mike: „Was ich Liebe” from the last album. Performing this is so much fun. And we will play it tonight.

GWD: *Is there a song you don't like?*

Ron: There are many great and good songs, but to find one that we don't like...

Mike: (laughs) Our vocalist (Heli – Gegenwind) does not like „Ausländer” (laughs). We are willingly performing all of the songs. There was no such moment when we had to leave one song out just because we didn't like it.

GWD: *Which song was the most difficult to perform?*

Ron: I think „Waidmanns Heil” because of the drums, maybe also „Keine Lust”. Instruments play a vital role here.

Mike: These are actually minor things, things you eliminate with practice. To be honest, there are no major challenges here.

GWD: *There are lots of Rammstein songs, that are performed during every show for many years (“Feuer Frei”, “Links 234”, “Keine Lust”). Coverbands are more flexible here. Do you have any favorite songs from those rarely or never played live by Rammstein?*

Mike: We usually don't play songs, that were never performed by Rammstein themselves, like „Weit Weg” for example. The coverbands role is to deliver known and liked songs to the fans. There are always people, however, who after the show will tell “I was missing this and that song”. That is why we are trying to shuffle our setlists (laughs).

Ron: We know what you mean, but we have to pay attention to the number of songs people want to see during our show. We just have to play some of them.

GWD: *We understand, we were at the Stahlzeit concert in Fürth beginning last year and the setlist was almost perfect. Thanks to it we have finally seen “Bestrafe Mich” live – thank you!*

Mike: (laughs) we have to disappoint you – this track is absent tonight (laughs).



GEGENWIND

PORTAL DLA FANÓW NIEMIECKIEJ MUZYKI

GWD: *No problem (laughs) We remember surprise we had when Rammstein finally played „Heirate Mich” this year. We are fans of such songs as „Rosenrot” and „Spring”...*

Mike: „Spring” is this song, which always almost makes the setlist, but in the end, there is always a reason to reject it. But who knows – maybe next year? (laughs)

GWD: *You have mentioned the last album’s material. What do you think about it?*

Mike: Good. It’s something different, but it’s genius. You need to take your time to process it.

GWD: *Have you seen the Stadium Tour this year? How did you like it?*

Ron: Show was huge, insanely huge. Stage construction is impressive because it teases what might happen there with fire and explosions. In the end, the execution of the special effects is very balanced though.

Mike: We were together in Munich. Unfortunately, we’ve got not so good seats –at the side of the venue - and we have not seen everything...

Ron: ...for example Flake...

Mike: ...but we were really mesmerized by the whole show. By placing the fire and other effects (confetti, smoke) among the crowd for example. Overall the whole thing – show and audience emotions – made quite an impression on us.

Ron: It was huge.

GWD: *Do you also perform your own versions of Rammstein demos? What I mean are songs like „Jeder Lacht”, “Eisenmann” or “Schwarzes Glas”.*

Both: No, not yet.

GWD: *How Rammstein react to coverbands? Do you have any contact with them?*

Mike: They know us and respect us. We do not have any contact with bandmembers– only with the management. Years ago when we performed „Stripped” (which is forbidden, because of the additional fees connected to performing covers, the full explanation is given [it>>THIS<< Interview – Gegenwind](#)) management called us and strongly forbid us doing this (laughs).



GEGENWIND

PORTAL DLA FANÓW NIEMIECKIEJ MUZYKI

GWD: *You have recently announced, that you have Schneiders drumset from 2016-2017 tour. Do you have Rammsteins other gear as well? How do you get those instruments?*

Mike: Our second guitarist (Matthias Sitzmann – Gegenwind) has bought one copy of the guitar model used by Richard Kruspe – RZK – there are only 2 copies on the planet. Apart from that, we bought the abovementioned drumset. And how did we got it? One of our technicians found the advertisement on the internet, so we checked this out, we called and in the end, it was ours. It sounds really nice(laughs).

Ron: It's really good, that it is original. It makes our stage and our show bigger (laughs).