



GEGENWIND

PORTAL DLA FANÓW NIEMIECKIEJ MUZYKI

On December 28th, 2018, we visited the Nacht der Helden festival for the first time. It was an experience so special to us that we would not even have thought not to repeat it a year later. And so on December 21st, 2019, our team appeared at the Airport Obertraubling hall at the next winter edition of this festival. It is worth mentioning, that the task was simplified this time, because during the year the festival has grown a lot and in addition to the winter edition in four cities, it was joined by the summer edition in West Germany, Koblenz. So we had quite a lot dates and places to choose from this time, which made us very happy.

The festival opened with a concert by Hemesath from Lower Saxony. The performance of the representatives of Neue Deutsche Härte was unusual because the singer Christopher Zumbült could not perform due to health issues and was replaced by his colleague named Marv, who naturally had to use a card with lyrics written on it. We admit that mastering a half hour show in such a short time is a real challenge and ... he did a great job.

Hemesath's performance warmed up the audience well and increased the appetite for the next performances planned for this pre-Christmas evening. The second-largest formation was Erdling from Bavaria. The Bavarians also announced their upcoming new album "Yggdrasil", whose premiere and promotional tour are scheduled for early 2020. The audience reacted vividly to the pieces played, curiously watched the decor of the stage and the image of the band members, and warmed up in anticipation of the star of the evening.

Faelder was the third to appear on the stage. We had the opportunity to participate in their concert already in May this year, because they supported the Ewiges Eis tour from Eisbrecher. The performance of this band definitely stood out from the ones created by their predecessors, because it was definitely more "balladic", one can even say "reflective". It is worth mentioning here that during Faelder's performance you could also see members of the band In Extremo on stage. Rock ballads flew through the hall and Kai Niemann charmed gathered fans with his voice, bringing smiles to their faces. The festival was closed by the performance of the main star and organizers - Heldmaschine.



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The band has been intensively promoting their latest album "Im Fadenkreuz" since September, so during the concert the latest songs were not missing. Compared to the first leg of the promotional tour, the show contained slightly less of them, although a pleasant surprise was the return to the set list of the song "Propaganda". There were other hits such as "Auf allen Vieren", "Schwerelos", "R" and "Weiter". The audience had a great time and willingly sang along with the singer René Anlauff both old and new songs. During "Das Mass ist voll", even one of the fans appeared on the stage and sang the chorus with the band, ensuring that the song was grammatically correct (in Bavaria, the word "Mass" is "die", not "das"). At the very end of the festival, the song "Heroes" from David Bowie (German version) was traditionally performed. Performers of all formations appeared on the stage: Marv, Neill Freiwald, Kai Niemann and René Anlauff. Together they performed this unique song. After the festival, all musicians could be met at the merch booth. Fans took autographs, bought records and took pictures. Some even had a short chat with the musicians. We watched with joy both the festival itself and its constant development. We hope that despite the attendance which is not comparable to the north, the idea of playing in every part of Germany will remain and maybe evolve into something even bigger. Thanks to the bands and organizers for the very warm welcome to our editorial team. We keep our fingers crossed for the festival's success and count the days to visit in 2020!



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Our visit would also not be complete if we did not take the photos and interview. And so just before the festival began, we exchanged a few words with Heldmaschine guitarists: Eugen Leonhardt and Tobias Kaiser.

Gegenwind: The “Im Fadenkreuz” premiere of was a surprise to everyone - it was an unusual and bold step - what do you think about it from the perspective of several months?

Eugen and Tobias: It supposed to be a surprise. We knew from the beginning what kind of consequences brings the lack of promotion, but overall we don't regret our decision. We think it worked out pretty well... and to see the faces of fans (in Munich) when during the door opening they realized that the new material is waiting for them...

GGW: What feedback do you get from fans? They had a chance to look forward to the specific thing or create a picture of their upcoming album after you released “Volles Brett” six months earlier?

E: Positive. Of course we couldn't expect that they will sing along, because these songs were completely new for them and they didn't chance to listen to it...

GGW: And you presented the whole CD on the stage during part A of the tour...

E: Exactly, so for us, it was a challenge and something new and unexpected for fans. We were also curious about how it will work. I guess now and during the spring tour it's gonna be normal again - people had time to get to know the new CD.

GGW: “Gottverdammte Mensch” is also a rather unconventional choice for the first clip - why did you choose this song?

T: Because it's surprising and no one expected that :D A bit like with the premiere...

GGW: Usually, concerts have some constant elements like “Weiter” at the very end - do you see a potential hit among the new songs?

E: Song always needs some time to imprint itself in people's minds as the hit, “Weiter” needed this as well. You perform it few times on a tour and observe how it is received,



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how people react on this. Some songs hold themselves on live setlist from one tour to another. In case of „Im Fadenkreuz” album „Die Geister die ich rief” might be such a song – you can perform it along with the audience.

T: Engage people to sing along... “Springt” also has a big potential.

GGW: So we can expect them to stay longer with us...

E: Only time can verify it. :) But it seems so...

T: Creating a setlist is always a problematic moment. How to mix the old and new songs... in which order...

GGW: And in addition there are some songs fans wants to listen all the time...

T: Exactly. So the more we record the harder is this choice.

GGW: The issue of Spotify has been raised quite extensively in recent months (latest album unavailable on the platform and an open letter from the band in connection with this case) - do you meet with understanding of fans? Or the opposite?

E: I think the majority understood our decision. Of course, there will always be 2 or 3 persons requesting more comfortable access via Spotify, but it seems that the majority understood the topic we brought to the light. In the end, everything is about an idea of how the bands are supposed to invest in themselves to survive and record new CDs in the era of streaming...

GGW: Will you reveal the next clip/single? Or it's also a surprise?

T: Even if we would have something in plans, that would be a top top secret! But seriously - it's a secret :)

E: So we can directly jump over to the next question :D

GGW: The song “Maschinenliebe” is the first electro song in your career - would you like to go in this direction on next releases and create something of this type again? Was it rather a one-time experiment?

T: I think it is only one-time thing...this form I mean...



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Marco Schulte: Let's Begin from the start – this is René's work, so he should say something about this...but this direction, that form is most likely one-time thing.

E: Other thing is, that a lot of people doesn't pay attention, or does not see the influence that electro music has on Heldmaschine songs. It's only said „metal this, metal that”, but there is a lot of electronics there. So, if it was received well, I could imagine other tracks from that direction in the future...We try to bring something fresh with every new album.

René Anlauff: Actually I don't know...time will tell!

T: I think it was quite spontaneous.

R: Yes, it was not planned before.

E: We just wanted to try something new... so who knows what will appear on the next albums... Maybe we will have the whole record in electro style? :D

T: Now to throw the guitars out...and...

All: Meh. Nooo... :D

GGW: Tobi, we remember from the last interview after “Volles Brett” premiere that you wrote the lyrics - was it the same with the rest of the songs?

T: Apart from „Volles Brett” tracks there were others as well...For example “Die Geister die ich rief”, “Klingt wie Rammstein”, “Orkan”...

R: That and songs from “Volles Brett”... We shared...

GGW: So it can be said that this kind of cooperation works for you. Good to hear that! Last time we closed the interview with a question about success this year and plans for the upcoming, so "traditionally" we will also do it this time. A year ago you said 2019 would be marked by:

- 1) a new tour
- 2) tours from OOMPH!
- 3) probably a new album

Time has shown that everything has been achieved - Do you count this time with the successes of 2019? Would you add something else here? What do you remember very well from 2019?



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T: Hmm... that's right!. That was a really great year for us, and a lot of good things happened. We have achieved much.

E: If you look backwards, you could barely remember what belonged to 2019...

T: Good memories...lots of them...our own tour, abovementioned gigs with Oomph!, album release... and there were also great festivals as well.

E: I think, that for 2019 successes you can also include things set up for the next year – for example the summer festivals, our next own tour...

GGW: What do you plan for 2020?

E: First of all – the festivals and our tour. Maybe we will be able to perform somewhere outside Germany.

T: And of course enter the studio as soon as possible. I don't know if we will make a new album within a year, or we would need 3 years, as it was this time :D

GGW: And what about "Nacht der Helden Winter Edition?" So far only OpenAir in Koblenz was announced.

E&T: We will see how this four-corners-of-the-world edition will turn out.

GGW: We hope, that it will take place and a year from now we could verify how realistic these plans were. Thank you for the interview and good luck with your plans.