



***Here is the second part of our Interview with Hämatoms guitarist, Ost. Here is what he had to say about plans and inspirations in Corona-times and some very unusual cover ideas. Among other things of course:***

***Gegenwind:*** *Do you have any post-pandemic plans or do you think there's no point making any plans, taking into consideration the current situation?*

***Ost:*** We'd be terribly bad businessmen if we didn't plan anything :) Of course, there are already two scenarios in our heads, regarding what may happen later. The first of them is that it will still be forbidden to organize shows in September and we'll be forced to postpone our concert tour again. The other one is even more pessimistic, and accepts the fact that even at the beginning of 2021 there will be no concerts. Really, no-one is able to say what's gonna happen. Now, some of the limitations have been cancelled, in Hesse they are even allowed to organize events for up to 100 people, but who knows whether there's going to be another wave of the pandemics and we'll be forced to return to the starting point. We're ready for any option, though.

***Gegenwind:*** *They say that in the future the lockdowns are to be announced only locally, so maybe only particular shows will be postponed, not the whole concert tours... Who knows what the situation on the borders is going to be like?*

***Ost:*** Exactly. I'm rather sceptical...

***Gegenwind:*** *As a band you frequently mention social and political matters in your songs - is this situation inspiring for you as well?*

***Ost:*** Some things, despite the current times, are unchangeable. There is still Trump, there is still Putin or Erdogan. There are good things, there are bad things, there are some surprises as well. There are some political parties or politicians from whom I would have never expected anything positive, but the pandemics and the current crisis forced them to act together for the sake of the society. Surprisingly, even the opposing parties co-operated in this situation. I was pretty impressed when those "forever politicians" who are conservative and old-fashioned, no matter to which party they currently belong, did not break ranks. Not like e.g. Lukashenka who claims there is no virus or what happened in the USA or France. Taking it all into consideration, I really appreciate self-control and efforts made by the German government in the light of the world crisis.



**Gegenwind:** *Do you follow what's going on in Poland? We hope your Polish family is safe and sound!*

**Ost:** Yeah, of course, it's also my homeland. I talk regularly to my grandma and I can guess her current condition. At the beginning of the crisis I felt she was completely broken, that she was afraid of what was going to happen, just like all of us. What's more she was bored, afraid to go out... To tell you the truth, I was more scared that she could have developed a mental breakdown than got infected with covid-19. I'm happy that Poland reacted so quickly - closed the borders, and taking into consideration the low number of those infected in comparison to France, Germany or Spain, I guess that everything's under control.

**Gegenwind:** *During our previous interview you couldn't hide that you were dissatisfied with the Polish government and the mentality that starts to prevail in Polish society. Has anything changed since then? Have you been following the hype regarding Corona and the presidential election?*

**Ost:** No, I wouldn't say so. I guess you're more up-to-date than me, but the direction into which the governing party is trying to push the country hasn't changed at all. Some of the reforms have not been withdrawn. Only after the protests in Warsaw and Mr Tusk's appeal, the election has been postponed till July. Now, of course I'm trying to be up-to-date, but recently I haven't heard anything positive (but the quick reaction to covid-19). Then what has changed since our last conversation? The only thing is that I'm not going to talk about it next time. I can discuss such matters with my grandma or friends who share my views and opinions, but there are also people with whom you can talk about weather only.

**Gegenwind:** *Yeah, sounds familiar to us... Have you ever been tempted to make a cover of a famous Polish song (even in German)? Is there a Polish song you remember from your childhood?*

**Ost:** Wait a mo, I'll show you something! \*he shows us his Spotify account and we can see Polish classic rock hits such as Dżem and Kazik and some parody songs like "Mydełko Fa" ("Fa Soap")\* This list is pretty short, but I'm constantly adding something here! Not much metal here, tho... But once I thought I'd like to make a cover of one of Kazik's songs... That would be a hammer! Once I even tried to write such a cover, however now I can't remember the title... It was one of my ideas... We even thought about "Whisky" ("Whisky" by Dżem - Translator's note) because everybody knows that song. We always listen to it on our nightliner when we have some time off.



**Gegenwind:** *And we guess it would be in German? Or would you like to sing in Polish?*

**Ost:** I guess Nord knows the lyrics well enough to sing it even in Polish! But "Fa Soap" by Hämatom would be cool, too!

**Gegenwind:** *Hell yeah! We'd like to listen to "Fa Soap" performed by you! Such a different style and it suits thematically Corona! We'd like to return to covers for a moment. We really like your versions of some hip-hop songs ("Bleibt in der Schule", "Emanuela", "Remidemi"). Wouldn't you like to continue it? We'd like to hear e.g. "Schwuhle Mädchen" (Fettes Brot). Or maybe you've got your ideas regarding this matter?*

**Ost:** That song is really cool. But I guess there's already a cover of it... Hm... Callejon made it.

**Gegenwind:** *We know them because of the cover of "Schrei nach Liebe"...*

**Ost:** That's right. They have covered also other songs such as "Schwuhle Mädchen" - just like I've already mentioned.

**Gegenwind:** *Recently we've listened to "Mein Land" by Rammstein and one can hear there such lyrics as "Ich geh' mit mir von Ost nach Süd / Von Süd nach West / Von West nach Nord / Von Nord nach Ost". Don't you think that it would be interesting and funny if you decided to cover that song?*

**Ost:** I'm pretty sure that Rammstein have written it for us after we played together and had an opportunity to meet :D And to be serious, I don't think so. We just like to make covers of those songs which represent totally different genres - just like "Fa Soap". Then it's interesting, opposite to working on something that already includes heavy guitars. In such a case there's not much to do - maybe just keyboards. I don't know, I think it's better to choose something completely different.

**Gegenwind:** *Then let's stick to "Fa Soap" - it's gonna be something brand new! :)*

**Ost:** "Fa Soap" or something by Zbigniew Wodecki! Even though we like to make covers and one can name a lot of interesting ideas here, we got to the point (or at least I did) that in the following two years we'd like to record only our own songs, not covers. We usually make covers to celebrate or commemorate something, so our 10th or 15th anniversaries were good reasons for it. Now it's time for our own activity. Covers have become boring.



**Gegenwind:** *Let's get back to your anniversary concert in Gelsenkirchen. When after an amazing and energetic beginning, a huge storm started above the amphitheater, did it occur to you that finishing the show might be impossible? What did it look like from your personal perspective?*

**Ost:** Everyone but me thought about that! I was so full of emotions! Everyone was worried when we started to feel thunders shake the whole construction, and the organizer was really terrified - all in all, if anything bad had happened, who would cooperate with him now? Who knows, he might have ended up in jail! I was just thinking that everything's gonna be fine and that it was a historical moment! I didn't really have time to be scared. The only thing that got me terrified was the moment when the lightning struck the metal ropes securing the stage, just next to the stall with our merch, and my sister was there! Apart from that, I only thought we were going to reminisce about our first Maskenball for a long time! And to be precise - about Nord's introduction and that noise during it!

**Gegenwind:** *You had special effects free of charge :)*

**Ost:** Precisely :D

**Gegenwind:** *The first edition, despite such weather, turned out to be really successful and you've decided to organize the second one. Of course, it has been postponed till 2021, but anyway we assume that you have positive feelings regarding the event. What kind of feedback do you receive or have you received from your fans?*

**Ost:** Those who were there with us, know that the venue - the amphitheater in Gelsenkirchen - is simply fantastic. It is really impressive. Next to that there is a lake... Apart from that storm, the weather was great! That all worked great together! Almost a perfect day. I don't know what your impressions are, but so far I haven't met a single person who didn't like the festival itself. Then, as it worked so good, it would be unwise not to continue it.

**Gegenwind:** *And how are you going to design the lineup for the festival? Are there going to be your friends or the bands you have always wanted to play with?*

**Ost:** 50/50 :) We know a lot of bands from other events and tours, but we haven't met the rest of them. Generally speaking, there is always a list with proposals and using it, we make the lineup.

**Gegenwind:** *We're really happy with the artists you have chosen. Also because of the fact that you've invited Knorkator to the next edition - they are pure energy! We love their concerts, we're always in a good mood after their shows!*

**Ost:** They're great, aren't they? They make fantastic shows!



# GEGENWIND

PORTAL DLA FANÓW NIEMIECKIEJ MUZYKI

**Gegenwind:** *That was our final question. We'd really like to thank you for your time, a very nice conversation on this Friday evening and we're happy that even though we couldn't meet in person, we've managed to see each other and do this interview! We wish you, the band and your dearest ones a lot of health! We hope to see you soon on tour!*

**Ost:** Thanks for talking! Stay healthy and see you soon!