



BENT NOT BROKEN

Altwater (some of you may remember Bobby's band Affair from the 90s). 'I always felt attracted to the guitar,' says Jörn. It was when he first saw AC/DC in concert, a wall of Marshall amps at their back, that he knew that music would be his career choice. Later on when Jörn's former band Reardon broke up after a couple semi-successful years, Jörn decided to continue 100% on his terms. 'My songs, my lyrics, my label, my way. Probably not the most promising way regarding a major breakthrough, but for me a great way to live only the positive aspects of my dream.'

Jörn is inspired by any bands with an attitude. 'There are days when I totally want to sound like the Foo Fighters, but the next morning I wake up with old Judas Priest in my head, switching to Ben Harper at noon, some Danko Jones in the afternoon, Muse for dinner and the latest Biffy Clyro album at night. This probably also reflects in our music, not being a pure-bred metal, rock or indie band but something in between.' Bent Not Broken is more like a state of mind than a band. 'BNB songs are not just songs but stories set to music. A song may start with a riff, but in the end it's a story we want to be told. And a twist in the plot might require an additional bridge despite the usual music conventions. If you're into the usual verse-chorus-verse-solo-chorus scheme, this may be irritating. But if you're willing to listen with an open mind you have the chance to discover a whole lot more than just "nothing to lose, we got the booze". Uhm, which is fine too of course..'

In 2009/2010 Jörn lost two very close friends within six months of one another and for a while he felt rather broken than bent. 'But the very last line in the first album was "you'll see Phoenix rise". So even though for me this is the same planet but a different world today, I decided to focus on a rising, unbreakable Phoenix and that was the driving force behind the album. Not that it was conceived as a concept album but if you listen to it top to bottom you'll get the story,' he says.

Jörn produced the new CD himself. 'I recorded all guide tracks in my own studio and with the rough mixes we went to Sky Studios in Munich to re-record the drums, due to a way better sounding drum room. With the final drum tracks we went back to my studio and recorded all guitars, bass, vocals and the few keyboards. Working with Bobby Altwater from Sky Studio was a pleasure, we were on the same wavelength from the beginning and therefore I brought the whole recordings back to his place to do the final mix together. Dieter Pimiskern from Dorian Gray Studio did the mastering. I think, we started recording around spring 2011, finishing 8 songs till late August and did the second round between August to November 2012.' For the future there will be a third Bent Not Broken album. 'In the meantime we make our living with "real-life-jobs", which allow us to continue to do what we love: making music, playing a couple of shows and enjoying life.'



BADHOVEN

'Obsession' is the superb new CD from melodic rockers BADHOVEN from Graz in Austria, their eighth album. The band are: Kurt C. – vocals/guitars, Gerhard Paar - keys, Erwin Lichtenegger- bass and Gerd Sojka - drums. The album is out now via ATS records. Kurt began to play music seriously when he was about 14 years old. 'Within one year I started to play songs from The Beatles, Whitesnake and Iron Maiden. A very British mixture, isn't it,' he smiles. 'The inspiration behind this album was love and passion, the everlasting fight for equality on this planet and the life of Rock n' Roll.' All three bands members have very different personalities. 'Just put mars robots, guitar amps, car parts and telecommunications together and give them a rock stage and you will catch an idea what is behind this spirit of Badhoven,' he laughs. This album is a rollercoaster ride of lived rock music. 'The working title of this album was 'Rock You Hard'. But I think it was two weeks before we started the recordings when we decided to put a brand-new song on this album. It was 'Obsession'. I figured that it was the perfect title for this album because obsession is our approach to music.'

The recordings were done at ATS-RECORDS in the 'highlands' of Austria. 'Yes, the studio is right in the Alps, a really good place to rock! Again it was the boss himself, Reinhard 'Bux' Brunner, who produced this album together with us. And he did all the recordings, mixes and the mastering: A great job,' he adds. The difference between this album and their last is 'Scotch whiskey and the influence of good old metal music,' he laughs. 'It was in 2009 when Erwin joined the band. He is definitely a metal bass player. And what should I say, it makes it really fun to play Badhoven songs in this new line up.' ATS RECORDS is now in cooperation with the German label Bellaphon. 'Bellaphon is representing a nice mixture of artists like AC/DC, Asia, The Beatles, Jeff Beck, Maria Callas, Johnny Cash, Ray Charles, Frank Sinatra, Chicago, Elvis, Van Morison, Motörhead, Santana, Sinner, Ten Years After, Uriah Heep and Yes. We also have plans to expand our gigs to Germany. And after that it would be great to work on the first gigs in UK.'



BRENT ENMAN

Some of you may remember solo artist BRENT ENMAN from Southern Rock band Preacher Stone, and he has a new CD out called 'Wildman'. Brent has been a huge music fan since I was a little kid. 'When I was 5 yrs old I used to sing 'Hey Jude' and other Beatles songs, I was nuts over them. As I got older I use to sneak my big brothers records and that's where I first heard Hendrix and Grand Funk and bands like that. For some reason the drums was the first instrument that I gravitated to and started playing along to records by AC/DC and Alice Cooper etc. I think the first song I learned properly was 'Smoke on the Water'. I have been playing pretty much ever since. Later I really got into Zeppelin and Sabbath and the NWOBHM stuff too. As for the making of my solo 'Wildman' album, I really wanted to prove to myself that I could record an album, playing all the instruments without any loops or backing tracks or what have you. Plus I don't have any kids so I thought I could at least leave my legacy as a record of my songs performed entirely by me. I'm happy that I went through the process, as hard as it was sometimes it has made me a better musician overall.'

Brent is trying to stay true to his roots musically and not follow any new trendy sound or genre. 'I won't be running to be a country artist or hip hop guy anytime soon, haha. I guess the thing that really makes me unique is my ability to play Guitar, Lead Guitar, Drums, Bass and vocals equally well that allows me to be a pure solo artist with regards

to my recordings. I don't know of but a handful of people who can pull that off.' He recorded all the material at GAT 3 Studios in Charlotte NC. 'Wildman' was recorded in just over two weeks with a week allowed for mixing. 'Which is insanely fast but that's all the time I could afford. Studio owner Glenn Tabor and myself produced all the songs. I usually have pretty comprehensive demos going in and then Glenn comes us with brilliant production ideas and we just work really well together. He has an uncanny way of understanding his clients' musical dispositions,' he explains. Brent hopes to compile more recordings and release a follow up to 'Wildman' when it is warranted. 'But for right now I'm happy releasing singles for downloads and whatnot, seems to be the direction music is going.' Since the 2012 release of his debut solo CD he has been busy writing new material and tweaking some older demos of songs he had written years ago. 'The new songs are in keeping with the 'Wildman' vibe, that is new classic rock, melodic but with punchy choruses and hot guitar tones. The new songs, three of which have been fully recorded are a little more upbeat tempo wise and one of the songs is an instrumental featuring stripped down bass drums and guitar. As with the debut I played all the guitars, bass and drums as well as doing all the vocals. The guitar tones and playing is a bit more in your face than the sounds on 'Wildman'.

Brent is also asked often about touring. 'It's tough to find committed players who have the means or ability to just drop everything and hit the road, but someday I may get that together.'



THE ROCKFORD HEROES

'Edge Of The Silverthorn' is the new album from Stockholm's THE ROCKFORD HEROES that is gaining a lot of press attention of late. The band are: lead vocals - Dan Hultstrand, guitar - Jonas Arvidsson, bass - Erik Carlsson, drums - Marcus Johansson. I caught up with Marcus to find out more. It all started for Marcus when he was with the band Lovestain, who played melodic hard rock in the style of Talisman and Mr. Big – this was together with Hank Erix and Soufian Maaoui from Houston. After a while they decided to quit Lovestain and they started Houston and Marcus joined the AOR band Titan. Marcus says that Eric Singer is his main inspiration. 'He has delivered an excellent drumming on everything from Gary Moore to Black Sabbath, Avantasia and now Kiss. Other common influences in the band are Whitesnake, Styx, Queen, Savatage, Journey and Toto among others, it is a mixture of classic hard rock to rock with pomp elements.'

The whole band consists of people from different generations and they play what they like. 'That's probably why we've managed to get such a broad and still sound. We all grew listening to different kind of rock music, so I think that's why it's hard to put our music in a particular genre.' This is the first proper full-length release that the guys have made. 'We previously released two EPs but it really feels like we have delivered a good album with different styles and songs that really shows all the different influences and backgrounds we have in the band. And given the great response we've received, this is really great.'

The album was recorded in Jonas Arvidsson's own studio Montroxx. 'He also had the role as producer and did also mix the album. We didn't record full time, rather when we had the inspiration. Both a blessing and a curse with having your own studio. But I think it took about three months in total,' says Marcus. Next up the band plan to release more physical records and hopefully they will get some live gigs. 'We really want to come out and play our music live,' he enthuses.