



'Will Cure Any Disease' is the new classic rock flavoured album from Sweden's HION MARTELL. This is the band's eighth record. The band are Christer Nilsson (Guitar & Lead Vocals), Ulf Hagberg (Guitar & Lead Vocals), Håkan Nilsson (Drums & Vocals), Stefan Larsson (Bass), Peter Subäck (Keyboards). I caught up with Christer to find out more.

"We're five guys from a small town called Jämså, located in the northern part of Sweden," he explains. "Hion Martell has been around since '92. This started as a kind of recording project with different guys playing on the different tracks. We got a more permanent line-up around '00. The current line-up has been together since '03. And might I add, it's the best line-up ever," he says.

The bands excellent new CD was recorded in three different studios, all located fairly close to Jämså. "We used the Mar-len studio in Färlila for the slower songs. The use real analogue tape instead of computers. They also use really good microphones. The faster, hard CD tracks were recorded at Sidalake Studios in Sundsvall. A few tracks were even recorded in our rehearsal room, using a pretty simple PC," he says.

Christer got hooked on rock 'n' roll after hearing Elvis sing 'Jailhouse Rock' on the Gramophone. "I was a six, and the song 'Action' by the band Sweet also got me into rock music. As for the other guys in the band I think it was pretty much the same thing. Peter loves Elvis, my brother Håkan was and is really in to Kiss and so on, it all adds into the melting pot to make Hion Martell what it is today," he says.

Next up the band are playing the local area constantly. "At the moment we are doing our best to get attention for the new album. It is already our most successful album ever," he says with pride. The CD came out in November and the reviews have been favourable, check the track out on the Fireworks sampler and visit the band at www.hionmartell.com and www.myspace.com/hionmartell



UK Progressive rock band THE DREAMING TREE have had a great year. The reviews for their latest CD 'Progress Has No Patience' have been amazing from all the main rock mags, plus tons of radio airplay. I caught up with guitarist Dan Jones and bass player Neil Simpson to get some updated on the bands Progress. I asked the guys how 2010 was for them. "It has been a blast," says Dan. "We have not only pushed ourselves musically and played some great gigs but we have put on our own shows with great success, which is always a blast when your plans come to fruition. On a personal note, playing with the guys in the band is always a high point especially in our improv sections, the guys always give me the room to explore musical space, and with them behind me I always end up somewhere really interesting," he adds. Neil cuts in. "I have to agree with Dan, really. I think 2010 has been a real move forward for the band and has given us a real idea of what we're trying to achieve by doing this stuff," he points out.

I ask the guys what have been their high and low points during 2010. "On the low points it was sad to lose our old bass player Jim just when we were about to release the Progress album," explains an emotional Dan, "but on a high we found a great replacement in Neil Simpson, he has already given us new strength

support of Ralph Rea of Lycan Media, and we are looking forward to putting out our new album through Plastic Head in early to mid 2011. We have also had great reviews in the National Music Press and we have ended the year being mentioned in the critics' choice of top 20 albums of 2010 in Classic Rock Presents Prog that has been a real bonus. Cheesy spins all round, smiles Dan, before Neil continues. "Absolutely cheesy spins. I've been very happy in a sadly egotistical way that most of the reviews we've had for the 'Progress' album have been very favourable, because in all honesty when you put new music out there for people to hear you're always exposing yourself to a certain degree, saying 'this is us - what do you think', and if we're being honest, if everyone turns round and says 'Rubbish!', it does hurt. So that's been nice. Getting a little more recognition in magazines has been really great too. I think low points are more mundane, like having to drive home from gigs at 4am, but on the other hand, that's usually after playing a great gig, so maybe I should stop moaning and consider that a high point," Neil laughs.

For 2011 The Dreaming Tree intend to put on a few more of their own shows in theatres as well as play for the Classic Rock Society and team up with their good friends Jump for some gig swaps. "So keep your eyes and ears open for gig updates. We are also currently working hard on writing our next album which is taking some very interesting turns. We will be upping our game in all areas from performance to PR and management. I think 2011 will be a good year for The Dreaming Tree," concludes Dan. "Yes, new album," says an excited Neil. "More music! And like Dan said, more increasing our profile and work behind the scenes too. We've talked about broadening our horizons a little too, and maybe consider playing abroad in some capacity. We'd also like to see if we can hit some festival dates, but essentially, the outlook is more, more, more."

Keep your eyes on the guys and listen to the track on the sampler: <http://thedreamingtree.co.uk/truits/>



Now let's take a look at the new EP 'The Memories' from New York based hard rock band FOUR TRIPS AHEAD. The band are Lead Vocals - Peter Wilson, Guitar - Brian Einspenser, Bass - Dan Cassidy and drums - Nick Cipriani. The EP has been getting lots of great review with many citing the charismatic front man's style as a mix of Doug Pinick from King's X, Jeff Scott Soto and Kory Clarke from Warrior Soul.

Four Trips Ahead came together organically eight years ago from the ashes of two other bands that played the NYC and East Coast clubs. "We were friends for a few years and respected each other's musicianship. Despite much of the popular music that radio and media was showing down our throats, we were determined from the very beginning to write dynamic hard rock songs with strong melodies that brought together our eclectic influences while sharing lyrics that provoked thought, we are also devoted to having a high energy live show where we could actually perform the songs well, unlike a lot of what you see and hear today when newer bands and artists perform live," explains front man Peter Wilson.

The EP was recorded and mixed at Spin recording studios in Long Island city in NYC. "We recorded some of our full-length CD a couple of years ago," explains Peter. "It's one of the few studios in NYC that still have a great live room with reels, not to mention a great vibe and supportive staff. Our goal was to get a truly big, warm analogue sound. We recorded all of the tracks live over a long weekend with minimal overdubs the following week. We wanted to keep the energy from the writing sessions at our rehearsal studio. I produced the CD and nick, our drummer, mixed it. We believe in keeping it in the family for maximum listening pleasure. And because we feel we know best what four trips ahead should sound like."

Music surrounded Peter as a child. "My mother sang with a Ukrainian choir in NYC for over 25 years that recorded and toured the States and Europe. My father is a jazz and ska enthusiast who loves to play his record collection loud. All music was embraced, from Nina Simone and Dave Brubeck to Peter Tosh and Black Uhuru to Cheap Trick, Bowie and Slade. I lapped it all up. All sorts of musicians and artists were in and out of my parents' home and it rubbed off. I started

singing in hard rock, metal and punk bands when I was about fifteen and then got serious when I started college and realized that I didn't want to become a lawyer, doctor or stock trader. The music scene in NYC was magical at that time, and as a result, I was forced to learn and develop my chops fast," he remembers.

Next FTA are planning an East coast tour of the States early in 2011 that may run into the south. "We hope to secure European distribution of 'The Memories' and work with booking agents in order to perform some shows on your lovely continent next summer. Though we just released a new EP, we also plan to record a new single possibly before the end of the year since we've been writing incessantly and performing many of the new songs live already. In the meantime, a video for 'This Night' is being edited to be released in time for the local promotional campaign for 'The Memories' in the U.S. It's a cool clip with a bit of a wicked concept, much like the song.

Check the band out at www.fourtripsahead.com / www.myspace.com/fourtripsahead



'Ode To Brother Horn' is the beautiful new CD from Austrian band ELOHAH who perform a mix of Ambient, New age influenced progressive rock. Elohah are Lead Vocals - Elmar C. Fuchs, Guitars - Acoustic, Peter Jaklitsch, Michael Lukas, Ulrich Krispel, Roman Baier, Manfred Temmel, Bass - Michael Lukas, Hoimar Wotawa, Drums - Vladimir Vescic. I had a chat with Elmar about the band and new CD.

Elmar started out with classical piano lessons when he was eight years old and then switched to guitar when he was fifteen. He then took some singing lessons in his early twenties. "I played in some school bands and formed my first own band at the age of nineteen—that was already called 'Elohah'. Very early I learned that working on a project basis is very rewarding and interesting, thus I played with many musicians since then," says Elmar.

There are a few constants within the band - like Peter Jaklitsch. Peter contributed his wonderful blues guitar. Karin Zarfel brightened the Elohah sound with her enchanting voice more than once and Dominik Mittergradnegger, the saxophone sorcerer. Next to that, there are a lot of guests or project musicians whose style continue to broaden the musical spectrum of Elohah. This is, basically, an important aspect of the band, growth into different musical directions whilst being rooted in chameleon-like singer/songwriter music with a new age, metal and synthesizer edge," he says.

Elmar has been producing all his own albums since 2000 in his own studio. "I have been recording and producing the Elohah albums myself, who was possible thanks to the revolution in digital recording," he says, and is now working on a new album with the tentative title 'The Art Of Loving' which is now being recorded. "It will include new musicians mainly from the Netherlands where I live now, but will also feature some of Elohah's regular performers like Dominik," he adds.

Check this wonderful band out at www.elohah.net / www.myspace.com/elohahmusic

If you like classic rock a' la Status Quo then check out the song 'Scooter' which is taken from the album 'The Mysterious Man' by Swedish rock band BODINROCKER. The band are Guitars, lead vocals - Anders Bodin, Bass - Marcus Sigvardsson, Drums - Klas Anderhell and pm Piano, Hammond, backing vocals - Lars Ekberg. The band have already supported Status Quo and some of the material is up on youtube

