

1. Hello Kerim. Thanks for the opportunity of exchanging a few sentences with you.

*Thank you very much for the opportunity. I am looking forward to it.*

2. In the beginning, I will put it straight – when the streaming and the chance to buy a physical copy of *Gedankenkarussell* popped up on the web, I bought one for myself practically immediately. It was the fastest I have ever bought a record so far! From the information on your Facebook profile I can conclude that the record is being sold extremely well, ain't that right?

*First of all thank you for your support. It's always nice to see people buying my albums, especially knowing, that I don't have any record label or other form of distribution. Which means you order straight from the musician itself and makes it more special.*

*Secondly you are right. The response has been amazing so far. I expected more critical feedback because of using vocals in every song. It's the first time for my solo project to have so many vocals but I am very happy with the outcome and the feedback. People really like it and that makes me happy. Goal accomplished!*

3. It's already the third album under the sign of Krimh but this time we can't say it's instrumental metal music – there are vocals in each song, to be honest it's a selection of different and fantastic vocalists. I was wondering if it is possible that Krimh will perform live some day?

*You are right! I think I found the perfect vocalists for my songs and I would like to say thanks to each one of them for their amazing job and being part of this album. They clearly made this album a special one.*

*I do get this question quite often and I asked it myself many times. To be honest I think it would take too much time and energy to organize everything. Time and energy I don't have right now. I would have to find the right musicians and the question is where to look for them. Shall I search in Poland or in Austria? We would have to of course learn all the songs and deal with the fact that I used so many different tunings on every album. Now having five different vocalist on "Gedankenkarussell" it would make it even more difficult. I don't want to say no to live shows but for now there is nothing planned because I constantly work on many projects at the same time. Playing in different bands, session jobs, lessons, and simply normal life with family, girlfriend and friends take time.*

4. The teasers for the *Gedankenkarussell* album came up some time ago, however until the moment you dropped the record you kept the guest appearances hidden. Was this the case, to hit with surprise?

*I definitely wanted to surprise my fans and that's why I kept a lot of things in the dark. There was no song teasers or any other signs that would reveal having vocals on this album. My goal with this solo project is to always make something different and new. I don't like to repeat myself. On the first album I had no vocals, on the second only one song, now every song with different vocals in three different languages and with international artists. Song writing and quality of the production are evolving as well. It's important for me that every Krimh album brings something new on the table and I could surprise my fans and myself.*

5. On your previous album called *Krimhera*, you had Patryk Zwoliński as the guest singer, and the reception of that song with his voice has been highly enthusiastic among the public. Was this the spark, the impulse, for the new album to have vocal parts in its whole?

*It was not especially because of this song. The idea came up because I wanted to do something different and fresh. I am huge fan of Patryk's voice. I loved his work with Blindead and his deep voice fills the space in the song perfectly. He is one of my most favorite vocalist ever. I was sure I wanted to use him again for *Gedankenkarussell* but somehow with other flavors to it as well. My music consists of many elements of several genres. From melodic to very brutal parts you have a wide variety. Almost naturally this idea popped up to use a variation of vocal styles. Therefore I asked some of my friends to help me out and luckily they all said yes. haha*

6. Both me and the reviewer of your latest album think that Patryk is one of the best singers in Poland at least as far as extreme music is concerned. Point-blank, how did you meet Patryk? Do you simply follow the polish post-metal scene and that's where the coop proposal came from?

*My first introduction with Patryk was through Blindead. Right away when I came to Poland someone showed me their music and I got hooked. *Affliction* and *Absence* are my favorite albums. During the song writing of *Krimh* era, I thought it would be cool to try out one song with vocals and he was the first choice for me. I contacted him through Facebook and we met in Warsaw. I told him my idea and he was interested right away. Our friendship*

*started from than and I am really glad I met him. He is such a lovely dude and it is always a pleasure to work with him.*

7. Rasta is your friend from Decapitated so he didn't think about the proposal of granting his voice for long, did he?

*We have been really good and close friends for many years. It was almost natural that we wanted to do something together besides Decapitated. He knew that I am writing my own music but it has always been instrumental so there was no need to sing. It changed with Gedankenkarussell and I wanted him to join me. We both agreed it is time to show Rasta in a different light. You probably never heard Rasta sing clean and experiment with melodic parts as he did here. It gave it a refreshing approach and he was happy to try out something new. Most of the ideas that ended up on the album, he came up with.*

8. One more word about the great Wielebna, I mean Zosia Fraś. The song with her contribution called *Żalność* clearly differs from the other, more dynamic songs, what's more it's sung in my mother tongue. How did it come to this collaboration?

*Again I have to say I wanted to have a different approach on each song so why not have a female artist as well. I know Obscure Sphinx since our last polish tour back in 2013 when I helped out Behemoth. Of course I admire their work and Void Mother is a masterpiece. The Presence Of Goddess gives me the chills each time I listen to it.*

*Her voice has this creepiness which I needed for this short dynamic song. There are no drums and it starts very calm. In the middle of the song it turns into this haunting and crazy part. She is perfect in making this transition. It is the only song in polish language and lyrics consists just out of a few sentences. It is more about the emotions she puts in the song rather than the words.*

9. The variety of voices chosen in relation with different songs makes me wonder. Choosing each vocalist to this and that song is pure intuition, only your initiative, or perhaps you gave everyone their own will, a proposal of a few pieces, where they could choose their parts?

*I chose which song each of them could sing. The parts and melodies in the songs were a mix of both. I drove to Warsaw, Krakow and Vienna to record vocals because I wanted to be part of the process. It was important for me to give them some freedom to bring their own*

*ideas to the song. This little input from outsiders made it more interesting and drift in other directions which I probably couldn't do alone. This work flow worked very well.*

10. What about separate lyrics? Have the artists sung to your lyrics or were basing on your concept and writing their own words? How did the work process on each song look in particular?

*All lyrics are written by the vocalists themselves. I thought about writing my own lyrics but I have never done that. My choice of words would have been poor as well. I talked with Patryk about what to do and he told me it is a better idea to let everyone write their own lyrics. I guess it is also easier to sing your own words than pre-made from another person. The only rule I gave them was to sing about something personal, own thoughts, experiences and topics which connected with philosophy and thinking in general. I didn't want to have religious or political subjects.*

*They have send me their lyrics before recording and some of them even made a rough demo version of how their vocal ideas sound. All the details were made in the studio later on.*

11. OK, enough about the singers, let's talk music now. I have to admit that Joanna is right saying there's a lack of display and guitar variations on the new album, whereas the previous ones was a straightforward guitar madness! Where does it come from? Maybe it's all about building the songs according to the vocal tracks, or arrangements aimed more at the melodies?

*This time I wanted to focus more on layers of melodies. The rhythm guitar is straightforward and simple but that's why I have space for other guitars to complete the composition. I like the idea of simple but very effective rhythm guitars. It doesn't have to be complicated to sound good. The songs themselves always start instrumental. I am not orientating my songwriting on the vocals. The reason for this is to have a strong instrumental structure. Each song sounds interesting even without vocals. Which means my friends didn't have too many possibilities to change parts but maybe it helped them to follow the right track.*

12. The third album's title, *Gedankenkarussell*, means, according to Google Translate, a carousel of thoughts. Personally I believe, that people are being constantly bombarded with information too often and too intense what brings us to being tired and in total mess. Is this what the title was going to tell us? There are no lyrics both in the

digipack and on your Bandcamp, so I wasn't able to analyze the words and their meaning.

*I am planning to add lyrics on my social media later on but the title "Gedankekarussell" stands more for train of thoughts. It describes a situation in which you can't stop thinking the same thoughts over and over again. You lay in bed and cannot fall asleep because your brain keeps bringing up the same scenarios and problems, which bother you. Almost as if there is a fight going on in your head. Therefore, it is not so much from overload of information rather than the conflicts in your inner self. Because of that, many of the lyrics are very personal. There is one song on the album called Gedankenkarussell and I thought this title fits so well to the artwork and the other lyrics. Furthermore it is in German and not very common. All of a sudden it became a concept album, which wasn't planned at the beginning but makes sense now.*

13. I have a question about the release of the album. Well, there a normal and an instrumental version of it on Bandcamp. And I have to say that I am used to your music in instrumental version, I badly miss the additional CD with instruments only. Have you given a thought to the idea of releasing a limited edition of the album with an instrumental CD?

*Sure I thought about printing a digipack with a double CD or an extra album but then if you look at the CD sales nowadays I don't think it is really necessary. Everyone is streaming online and it will be difficult to sell all the other CDs first. There is an instrumental version in a digital form. For me it was more important to push the album with vocals. It is something new and fresh and I almost didn't release an instrumental version. Honestly I made it only because of "fan pleasing" and the fact I started as an instrumental project and some people probably would be disappointed. So to make everyone happy there is a version without vocals available if you really want that. If there will be another album coming out and if it will have vocals on it as well, I don't know yet. That is the beauty of this project; I am writing whenever I want and feel it is time to do something new. No stress from anyone which gives you total creative freedom.*

14. In some interview you said you would do well behind the microphone. Yet we don't hear your voice on the new album. Why is that?

*Did I say that? Haha! I don't think so or at least I can't remember. My voice is not made for singing . Not because I can't hit the right notes but more because it doesn't sound good in my opinion. If you listen to Patryk just talking you instantly get hooked with his deep voice. Some people have it and some not. I don't think I have it so that's why it will not happen that I am singing on my own albums. Actually I did scream one word in the gang shout in "Facade". My voice is on the CD but nobody knew till now. Hehe*

15. This is yet another album you released without the help of any big label. Don't you think it's about time you started working with a producer? What conditions should a label fulfil for you to consider signing a contract?

*No, I don't think it's time for it or necessary to be honest. I don't want to sign a deal with a label for 3 or more albums and small labels don't make much sense for me. The big labels yes but there you will have these kind of monster deals or maybe I am wrong. Probably times have changed and labels have to adjust as well. The business is constantly changing but what stays the same is the fact that a day has only 24 hours. I could push my solo project a bit more but right now I don't have the time and energy to make more and it is great to not have stress. I even don't know if I will make another album. Time will show.*

*What a label should fulfil? Mhh... Be fair with the artist and his/her music. Of course, both have to somehow earn on it but I feel labels have sucked out the life too much from bands and there is a big distrust in them. If I would find a label that would give me the freedom to do whatever and whenever I want to do it I would consider signing a deal. Just this word" signing a deal"...feels like handcuffs for me. Or maybe I am just strange and paranoid and should change my thinking.*

16. Last two albums were released with a year-long gap, the latest after three years. Is this due to your commitment to Septicflesh?

*It took so long because everyone who was involved, including me, was super busy. I have never recorded an album as fast as this one to be honest but the more people are part of it, the longer it takes. I recorded vocals through the whole year 2016 in 3 different cities. As you mentioned Septicflesh is a very demanding band and needs a lot of focus. In the end I am happy we took the time to make it perfect. We tried three different mixes and it slowly started to build. It wasn't so easy to make a basic powerful sound without sacrificing each unique flavor of every vocalist.*

17. Tell us, how long did it take to learn Fortis's parts in Septicflesh? Was it hard? I understand that after all you bring some of your own, say, patents?

*It felt not as difficult as Infernos (Behemoth) drum beats. Fortis and I have a pretty similar style of how we arrange drums and which beats we choose. I learned around 17 songs in one or two months. Luckily I had not such a time limit as I had with Behemoth. In general I feel very comfortable with Septicflesh because it gives me the freedom to play fast but with taste and groove. Most of the beats are very groove orientated and less focused on speed. That is exactly what I like.*

*On live shows I do spice it up here and there with my own fills and variations. Only if the drum fill is characteristic I keep it. General beats I don't change because it would ruin the song structure but I like to let it go sometimes and surprise myself with what fills I come up. It doesn't always sound good but hey, it is a live show not a CD and I want to have fun.*

18. Before Septicflesh you had an episode in Decapitated. I dare to say that putting you behind the drum set was a bull's eye hit for the band! Are you still in contact with the group members? How do you recall that times?

*Now we are starting to have more contact again. As you can understand right after the split we didn't have much topics to talk but we are grown up people. Fights and arguments don't make sense in the end. Everyone goes their own way and I am really happy how great things are going for them and I think they see it the same way with my career.*

*I always laugh about stories and good memories I had with the guys. It was a good time and I am very thankful for the opportunity Vogg gave me back in the day. He saw the potential in me and pushed me to get better. I said it before and I will say it again, this guy is not only a great guitar player but also a good teacher. Its not easy to satisfy him but he knows what he is talking about and I learned a lot about drumming during that time.*

19. You also played a few concerts with Behemoth. Pressure is the least we can say about the need to learn the whole setlist in a few days, am I right? Do you like challenges?

*14 songs in less than 10 days! Yes it was really hard and probably my biggest challenges so far as a musician. I almost said no because I felt like not strong enough for this job but it was good that I kicked my own ass. I don't regret anything now. I do like challenges because they make you grow as a musician and person. There is a personal conflict going*

*on in your body. Shall you take it or not; will you fail or succeed? It can either push you over your limits or it makes you feel really weak if you fail. But hey, if life would be easy it would be boring I think. If there is a challenge with a small chance to make it, it is good to try it!*

*20. Looking at your career and the reactions from the public, I must say that you are climbing the ladder of music titans damn quick. Let's face it, you're not in your thirties yet. What are your music ambitions? Where would you like to play one day?*

*Thank you for the compliment! I work hard and it looks like it pays off. Indeed I can put a couple of cool things on my musician CV but I am always hungry to create something new and do stuff. I am not yet 30 but almost. Hehe*

*I know what I have is something special and it can end any day. Therefor I try to be grateful for what I have. I do everything I can to keep it that way because music became "fuel" for my life. My ambitions are very basic. Do what I feel is right for me and if music is the thing to keep going than I want to make it last as long as possible. Metal drummers have it hard because of the physical demand they go through but I try my best to be heathy and fit.*

*I want to achieve more with Septicflesh that is for sure. Not only me but the rest of the band feels there is more potential and we can grow. It is a great family to be in and everyone pushes each other to get better. Where I will play later, I don't know. I go with the flow and enjoy what I have now. Well one day I would like to at least play one Slipknot song live with the guys. Haha! That would be a little dream come true.*

*21. A few years back Slipknot was looking for a drummer, there was a storm on Facebook and a sort of a hype around the topic of you sitting behind the set for the American band. Did you apply then?*

*After I finished playing with Behemoth I was still hyped by the fact that I conquered this challenges so I had this "I can do anything" mentality going on. I read that Joey was no longer playing with Slipknot. At first, I was shocked because this guy was Slipknot. I started to wonder who will play after him. The band seemed to keep going so they had to find someone obviously. I expected they have someone already because it's such a big band, they must have a plan B,C and D. Nevertheless, I talked with a close friend of mine and he said I should try it. Why not! Let's see what will happen. I recorded two videos and uploaded*

*them on youtube. I didn't have to do much and all over sudden this whole snowball started get bigger and bigger. Almost every metal newspaper wrote about my videos and many people really thought I will make it. The response was huge and scary in a positive way. Many people watched the videos and wanted me to play with them but it was impossible to get in touch with the band or the management. I know the business and the people in it but they are too big for me. Jay Weinberg is playing with them and he is a great fit. He does the job perfect and puts a lot of energy in.*

22. I am also wondering, how often do you receive offers of playing sessions with other bands? You recorded tracks for the new Nargaroth album. How often do you refuse such offers?

*Not so many but here and there I get offers to record drums for other bands. Most stuff I turn down because it is either unplayable or not my style. I am amused how people see me as a drummer sometimes. Five minutes long songs with 250bpm blast beats through the whole song is often what they send me. I can't play that and it is not my style. That is why I say no to many brutal death metal bands. Whenever I have the time and the project fits, I enjoy recording in the studio. It's more exciting than drum lessons.*

23. You live in Poland, in Cracow. What do and don't you like about our society?

*Yes, I live in Krakow. I am gonna give you an honest opinion. Let's start with what I like. I like that Poland has so many talented musicians and artists. There is all the time something going on. Not only in metal but also with Jazz music, alternative movies, theater, art... you have a lot here and good stuff. I feel like Poland is still hungry for such things. People want to try out how far they can go with their passion even though they have to sacrifice a lot. In Austria people are more worried about tomorrow and the rest of their lives. They like action but not too much and not too risky. Better to have a good retirement and be safe but in Poland you feel this wild east mentality coming through. It's a bit crazy but also refreshing. I like to say "Everything can happen in Poland".*

*What I don't like about Poland is the "drama". I don't know why I have this impression but Polish people love drama; at least the majority. It is in the TV, in their families and between people. As if life is not hard enough without it. So many problems wouldn't be there if people would be a bit more open towards each other and try to also understand the other person. I know you will say, here comes the Austrian and talks shit about Poland and Polish people. I know about the history and how many times Poland was run over by other*

*nations. It is a matter of history and mentality. I learned to love Poland and its people but it is just the impression I get as a foreigner.*

*The political system ruled by PiS is a nightmare for this country. There is so much potential in Poland but I feel with this government it goes backwards not forward. People deserve better than this.*

24. About Poland, are you a fan of Polish cuisine or some dish in particular? Or maybe some other reasons are keeping you in our beautiful country?

*Tak, tak I am a big fan of polish cuisine. It is simple and tasty; exactly what I like. I can see similarities to Austrian food but it could be a bit less meat and less heavy. Pierogis are the best! Haha*

*My girlfriend is from Poland as well so I moved here and the fact that living costs are lower than most other EU countries.*

25. A little self-interest. Two years ago I went to Austria for holidays and I have to admit that I was charmed with the mountain chains there. What's your attitude towards life in the nature and the speed of city life? What do you prefer?

*I prefer more and more life outside big cities. It is hard with my job to not live in big city because you need to be close to airports and a big city has many great advantages but I feel the stress and speed. Probably it is because I grew up in Austria which is full of beautiful nature. We love to take care of our "green heart" and the trend of environmental friendly farming and production is growing quickly. We have only one planet and we should take care of it. It sucks that flying ruins the atmosphere so much and I feel bad sitting all the time in the airplane flying to the shows. Still I try to keep my environmental footprint as low as I can. It is about small things like check what you buy, take the bike not the car, recycle, do I really need this thing?, is there an alternative product that is made organic and still affordable,.... things like that are important for me now.*

*I would wish I would have more time for myself and no social media. It is impossible as an artist to not be active on social media but its so exhausting. Most of the time and energy is consumed by it. Not even playing music but this constant posting and updating about what you are doing is tiring. We live in a fast world and that is the result of it.*

26. Where do you go for rest? Poland, Austria, or maybe some lands far away?

*I like to go mountain biking in the forest. Sports in general relaxes me and has been as important as music in my life. I enjoy being home in Austria but fell in love with Bergen, Norway. Each time I am there I feel good and it is such a beautiful place. Just the rain can be a bit annoying. Haha*

*One day I want to explore more of Poland's nature. Especially your untouched old forests. It is a big country with many special spots to check out.*

27. Do you sometimes take a break from music? How do you mellow out? Or perhaps you don't need to at all?

*Like I said before, the best way to relax for me is sport. I have to be active and I hate to lay around and do nothing. I am a workaholic but I am fine with that. I like to get shit done you know. Even though I am physical active it helps my brain to calm down. Spending time with my girl, family and friends is another important thing for me.*

28. Going back to work, Septicflesh is working on a new album. I am more than interested with the progress.

*We have finished everything already but of course we have to wait till the release to present any songs to our fans. We spent around 2 month for the song writing. Orchestra was recorded in Prague, guitars and vocals in Greece and drum tracking took place in Stockholm. It was really cool that all four of us brought ideas on the table. This album really is a collaboration of everyone in the band. Of course the main input came from the brothers and Sotiris but I am glad they let me work on guitar riffs and song structures as well. For the mix we chose Jens Bogren from Sweden. I think I don't have to explain that he is a master of his work. We are all more than pleased with the outcome and I think Septicflesh never sounded so powerful like it does with this one. There is still some stuff to do like photo and video shooting but the music part is done.*

29. In August you are playing with Septicflesh in Wałbrzych during Metal Mine Festival. Is there any chance the fans will hear some of the new Greek sounds?

*This concert is the last one with the old setlist and right after that we will prepare a new one. I mentioned before we have to wait for the release. Maybe we will play one new song but I don't want to promise that. Anyways I am really looking forward to this show in Wałbrzych. The festival sight looks amazing and it is gonna be a great show for sure. I hope I will see many polish metal fans there!*

30. Kerim, thanks for the time you dedicated to this interview. Take care and see you in Wałbrzych. You have your 6,66 second for our readers.

***Dziękuję bardzo i do zobaczenia!***

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