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Michael Henker Fest

reach 'And... their new album is a 'Revelation'



said for when writing melodies. Melodies are everything and are the most difficult thing to write, in my opinion. Catchy and memorable melodies being backed with strong lyrical content is a big part of the foundation for us. We strive for this in every song – nothing is mailed in! We are hard rock band where you can hear influences from music that was played back in the seventies, eighties, nineties and up to today. But in a lot of ways, I feel our music is a bit timeless and will be around forever," he says with satisfaction. "We like to write songs that we can pull off live in every way. So, you're not going to find anything on the album that was over-produced and then sounds different live. Every song we have can be played acoustically as well, and still sound just as good if played with loud, crunching guitars turned up to eleven. But we really like the crunch." Ryan cites the song 'Shimmer' as one his personal favourites from the album. "I wrote this song about a cross-country road trip from California to Georgia with my Son," he tells me. "It was a week-long journey and an adventure that I'll never forget. We took turns driving and when I was not behind the wheel, I was writing down notes from the day's events. At the time, I thought I knew what the song was about, just a road trip with my Son, wrong! The lyrics that hit the page revealed to me it was about me letting go and seeing him off into the next phase of his life (which was ridiculously hard), and for him to have the courage and bravery to take on the next chapter alone. I think it is something every parent struggles with, letting them go. The music literally just wrote itself and it perfectly hit the feel and mood I was searching for. I

had all the pieces but the bridge, and then one day, EZE (Eric) sent me a clip of a part he wrote, and 'bam' it was the bridge and a killer part that filled the void. I never thought I would be able to hear this song on an album, so when it happened, it just meant everything to me." The live shows have so far been awesome for the band. "The greatest compliment is that everyone has a different favourite song and that they love it live. It is always a great feeling to see fans show up and they are singing right along with you. We recently played at the world-famous Catalyst in Santa Cruz, CA and the energy from the crowd was contagious. So we have been pleased with the response thus far to the album. In terms of what we are hoping to gain, I think we are pretty open to what comes our way. We haven't sat down and said we must have this or that, or our goals are xxxxx. Of course we want everyone to hear and learn about Corvus Lore but, we know it's really tough out there and you are competing with a lot of other really talented bands. I think if we just stay true to the music we write and not worry about what we hope to gain, good things will come our way. We're just getting started," he says with spirit. The album was recorded at Tiny Telephone Studios in Oakland, CA. "We shopped around for a studio that was all analog, which was not easy to find because there are so very few studios that specialize in analog these days. But this was important to us to have it analog. When we found Tiny Telephone Studio, it was everything we were looking for and then some. Aside from being an all analog studio, their equipment and live room was epic," he says in awe.

"Everything was recorded live, except the vocals and lead guitars. Everything went through a sixty-four channel 1976 Neve 8068 console. To boot, Jacob Winik who is one of the very talented Engineers for the studio, was also a very creative Producer as well. Together, Corvus Lore and Jacob produced the album. The process itself was very quick. We tracked everything in just five days and spent three days for mixing. It was crazy-fast, and we didn't have a minute to spare but, couldn't have been happier with the outcome." For now, Corvus Lore just want to play live as much as possible and get the album out there and be heard. "Our debut album is eight songs because we were on a budget and pressed for time. This was really tough on us because we have a lot of other songs that could have easily been on the album but just couldn't find a way to squeeze them in. Next steps... We haven't really figured it out but, I feel the plan right now is to continue to play live wherever we can and promote the current album and keep writing and get back into the studio and follow-up the debut album with another full release by the middle of next year. The band has a ton of material and is itching to get it all down and be heard. So, we are excited about this but also focused on getting the current debut album into every ear around the globe," concludes Ryan, bringing an end to our conversation. The album is out now on CD and from all the usual digital outlets. Check Corvus Lore out at <https://corvuslore.com>

BURNING AMP, are a superb hard rock quartet from Frankenberg, Germany. They have a new twelve track CD out now called 'Dead End

Road' which runs in at just over an hour long and is the band's debut album. Burning Amp are: Frank Jirmann - bass, Ralf Lenz - guitars/backing vocals, Brian Lenz - drums, Christian Löer - vocals/guitars.



It is around lunchtime in Frankenberg, Germany, and guitarist Ralf Lenz has just had breakfast, consisting of a nice cup of coffee along with a little chat with his wife about what happened yesterday. "The sun is shining through the still a little bit hazy sky and it is much warmer than the past few days. The temperature is about 16° C, so you can go outside with just a thin sweatshirt," he adds. Ralf grew up with music, and his mother was singing all the time when cooking, ironing and doing any kind of housework. At the age of fourteen, he bought his first electric guitar. "It was not a very good one and it was very hard to play. I took some lessons at the shop where I bought it and my teacher told me, that I was his first student who was really interested, and which had some kind of talent. I kept on playing mainly by self-studies until the age of twenty-one," he explains to me. He then stopped playing guitar mainly because of a lack of time (job, family and so on). At the age of thirty-eight or so, he picked up his old guitar and started playing it again. "A few years later, my youngest son Brian started playing drums. And then there was the idea of creating a rock band.

Somehow, with Frank and Christian I found the right people for that. Well and here we are," he smiles in between slurps of coffee. 'Dead End Road' is Burning Amp's first studio album. Around half of the songs were written by Lenz and the other half by singer and guitarist Christian Löer. "All the songs were inspired by situations out of my and Christians life. He is not very good in English, so for his songs, he always brings over the lyrics in German and I transfer them into English. Christian and I have a very different way of how we write songs and how we play our guitar," Lenz explains to me. "However, this adds up very well and so the album has a great variety and each song sounds different, new and interesting. The album was recorded live and simultaneously without click and only very few overdubs to be able to put in as much emotions and live feeling as possible. The band and I did not want to make a clean and in every direction perfect mainstream album like many other bands. It was important for us to show that the music is alive and not cold and boring."



Ralf is inspired by a lot of good musicians and bands like Metallica, Disturbed, Billy Talent, Five Finger Death Punch and so on. "There would be a lot more I could count up, but for me it was very important not to copy

anyone, but to find my own way. My own way to write songs and my own way to play my guitar. The inspiration behind 'Dead End Road' was to create something new," he expresses. "The stories of the songs are stories out of my and Christians life and the way how we see the world. The inspirations sometimes come overnight or in the early morning hours. Then I jump out of the bed pick up my guitar, a sheet of paper and a ball pen and start to be creative. Many of my songs began like that. For example: I was looking for the solo part in 'I'm Not Gonna Die' but didn't find the right thing somehow. Then one Sunday morning I woke up and there it was. I just had to play it. Weird isn't it," he smiles. When Lenz is not writing or performing, he is sometimes interested in more things, than he can handle in his limited time. "I like motorbike riding together with my wife on a sunny spring or summer day in our great surround area. Where I live, we have many lakes and hills around. That is a great advantage because I don't have to drive for hours to get into this beautiful area. I also like scuba diving. I was running a small diving centre with diving school and shop for almost twenty-five years but because I was becoming older and the music took more and more of my time, I decided to stop that. Today I am just a holiday diver like many others in nice and warm corals seas. That is much more enjoyable than tearing students through cold and dark lakes," he marvels. Burning Amp is a band of four friends that simply love to make music. There are two different preferences in the band. Christian and bassist Frank Jirmann both love classic rock and all that old stuff. Brian Lenz and Ralph are

both more into modern hard rock and modern heavy metal. "I think it is just this mixture, which makes Burning Amp so very special and unique, because all these influences are found in the music of the band! It is a mixture of classic rock and modern hard rock and builds somehow a bridge between these two styles. I love what I am doing so it is for the rest of the band and we don't care for what radio stations and labels are asking for. We don't follow a trend! We try to create our own one," he says with spirit.

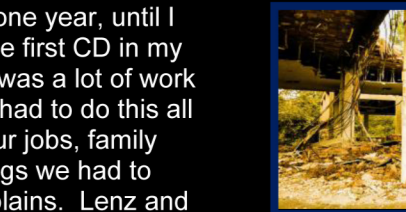


The highlight of the album for Lenz is the variety of the songs and the emotions you can feel, when you hear them. "There are ballads like 'Dead End Road' and 'Story of Life' as well as really hard songs like 'I'm not gonna die' or 'Burnout' for example that reach into the metal and thrash metal direction. All these songs are written and played from the heart. I am really not able to point out just one song, because I love them all. The funny thing on this is, though I am more out of the modern hard rock and metal section I am responsible for the two ballads on the album. However, we are busy already working on new songs and this time Christian has written a great ballad, so be curious for the next album," he enthuses. The live shows for Burning Amp are becoming better and better. "I permanently make up my mind, what can be done, to make them more interesting and spectacular

for the audience. The last thing I bought, were two coloured fog fountains, which gives the show at special points the right kick! I am thinking a lot about lights and special effects, because a show today is not just listening to music but an all over event with many emotions. Today the band has an international booking manager with many connections," he explains to me. "He has great plans for us, and I wonder where this will lead us. The aim is to play on the big stages in front of many people and to present our music. First in Germany and then later on probably all across Europe and who knows where else." 'Dead End Road' was recorded at Marburg Records. "The studio is around fifty kilometres south of where I live. Nico Rubner and his team did a really good job and I felt very comfortable there though it was the first time for me to do a record in a studio. The album was produced by us. At this point Burning Amp did not have a label or anybody else who would be supporting us financially. Even now, our label Southside Records is just a selling label. Most of the album was recorded on two weekends. With the mixing, reamping, overdubs, mastering, graphic design, production and all that stuff it took almost one year, until I could hold the first CD in my hands. That was a lot of work because we had to do this all besides our jobs, family and all the gigs we had to play," he explains. Lenz and the band and are having big plans for the future. "Very soon, Burning Amp will play concerts all across Germany. So far, we were only local heroes playing concerts in a circle of around sixty km from where I live. For the next year, there is a plan to make short tours across Europe.

Christian and I are already working on new songs for the next album. I hope we can get enough good material together until the end of two thousand twenty to go into the studio once again and do the recording for the next CD, which then will probably be released at the end of two thousand and twenty-one. It would be great if more radio stations around the globe would be interested in our music and would put in on their playlist. I am working on this as well," concludes Ralf, bringing an end to our conversation. The album is out now on CD and from all the usual digital outlets. Check Burning Amp out at <http://www.burning-amp.de/> <https://open.spotify.com/album/1PeO5Nq6zJb6UYDYIQ26xt> <https://www.deezer.com/de/album/85326622/> <https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/dead-end-road/1450519892>

SIXSTRINGS, are based around the talents of multi-instrumentalist hard rock artist Jose Salvador from Barcelona, Spain. They have a new thirteen track CD out now called 'Cries Of The Soul' which runs in at just under an hour long and is Jose's debut album that is well worth checking out.



Multi-instrumentalist Jose Salvador started to play guitar when he was maybe at eight or nine years old, when his older sister and her boyfriend started to teach him from time to time. "I started to play with, and old Spanish acoustic guitar and it was