

ELEGY OF MADNESS - Interview Larry Ozen by www.tntradiorock.com

Hello. "XI", their fifth album, has been out for a few days now, and several advance singles had already been released. What feelings do you have with the album out, how is the feedback?

We are so excited and very thrilled! The feedback at the moment is very good! Many people and fans appreciated our new album and this new direction with Kyras Aylin as singer.

What is the emotional experience you hope listeners will have when immersed in your music?

Larry: we have composed this album after pandemic time, but we didn't want to get sad memories or bad feelings from what we experienced, although we used very dark atmospheres, but we wanted listeners to feel just like awakened, giving them strength and courage to fight.

One of the important things surrounding this new work is the change of voice in Elegy of Madness. Anja Irullo, vocalist since the 2007 demo, "Another Path", is no longer in the band, and Kyras Aylin came in her place. What happened to Anja, and how did Kyras's entry come about?

After Anja left the band for personal reason, we looked for a new singer soon, and Marco (lead guitarist) found Kyras by internet. After some auditions we realized that she was the one for us, someone able to do something more.

How do you feel about the addition of Kyras Aylin as vocalist and how has Kyras influenced the band's musical direction and overall dynamic?

We have found an amazing vocalist, technically extraordinary, and her musical background and influences allowed the band to pushing towards a sound more extreme, using screams, vocal fry and many levels of vocal interpretation.

Before delving into "XI", how would you describe the evolution of your music compared to previous albums? What aspects of your music have undergone significant changes in this new album?

I think XI is more dark than Invisible World, more powerful, melancholic in some way and various.

I don't know if you will agree, but in my opinion, "Broken Souls" may be the song on the album that encapsulates all, or almost all, of the elements and textures that surround the sound of Elegy of Madness on "XI". Does it have a bit of each essence of the band?

We agree. Broken Soul can be the most representative song of XI album, because the style, the lyrics, the symbolic elements, the dark atmosphere, and even if it's a song by Tony Tomasicchio (rhythm guitar) there is an arrangement by Larry, Lyrics by Kyras, so each one has contributed to make this song the first single.

"Insanity" or "Moon" (I love it) have a lot of emotional charge, with strong doses of melancholy, where Kyras's clean and warm voice stands out. Tell me about these songs.

Yes, both of them, has a lot of emotional charge and that was just what we wanted to make feel the listeners...there are song composed to elicit an emotional response and others to elicit a power and aggressive response.

As we have commented throughout the interview, there is a lot of diversity throughout "XI". Another example of this is found in "Crawling", the hardest and fastest song on the album. What concepts best summarize the essence of the album in terms of sound?

We just wanted to use a cold powerful sound for this album with a bit less orchestral presence so we talked about it with Simone Mularoni from Domination Studio that is a Master sound engineer, dear friend and a very polite person, and that's why XI sounds great!

"Playing" with so many sounds is sometimes risky, and I think that Elegy of Madness has achieved a very compact and diverse album, showing a very high compositional level in "XI". What was the biggest challenge in exploring different musical styles on this album?

The biggest challenge was quite the attempt to mix different styles and sounds trying to unite them all by creating orchestras and atmosphere such as to give each song the Elegy of Madness mark.

What was the inspiration behind the name "XI" for your new album? Can you delve into the symbolic meaning and how it relates to the theme of the album?

We were inspired by Tarots, specifically by number XI that represents the Strength. This is a master number that refers to intellect, mindfulness, awake of consciousness, synchronicity, creative power and more. We experienced the pandemic time, so each symbol from number Eleven it has been for us a way to talk about what we lived in a musical key; overcome difficulties, feel the strength to go on, to fight against the totalitarian system, in a world of chaos, decadence and fears, this is what the album XI talks about.

As for the lyrics, we see that, for example, "Broken Souls" talks about war, "Moon" is a melancholic song that talks about lost love, "A.I. "Slavery" a small instrumental based on artificial intelligence... very diverse themes. What specific emotions or themes do you address in the lyrics of the songs?
We are strongly inspired by what we living in the present.

17 years, five albums. If you look back, what assessment would you make of how things have happened for Elegy of Madness in all this time?

In this moment, we prefer to look forward...the past is the past.

With the album already released, what immediate plans does the band have? At the moment, after some release party in Italy, we are planning live and festivals. Finally, what message would you give to people who are discovering Elegy of Madness right now with their album "XI"?

Now that you have discovered our band with our album XI, you can't do without us for sure!

Thank you very much for your time, and congratulations on this fantastic album.

Thanks for the interview and many many thanks to all the