



Hi Dave! Everything OK since the last time we talk? New album out, what can you say about that?

Yeah, life is mostly good... I had a car accident last May, which meant that I couldn't play guitar for very many months... but you know, you have to stay positive... things can always be worse!! Fortunately I'd finished recording the guitars on my new album before the accident!! As for the album itself, I'm very happy with it!! I feel like I'm developing my own musical 'voice', and I guess the main difference on 'The Truth' is all the harmony vocals... I had so much fun doing them!!!! It's something that I've always wanted to try... I'd sung in a Barbershop Quartet when I was still at school, so that sound was in my head from a very early age... and also Queen were the first rock band I ever got into, and I've always totally loved their wonderful layered harmonies...

Do you follow the same working process as you did with Scarlet...?

Well, I learnt a lot from working on 'Scarlet'... and some of that was how 'not' to do things!! Hahaha... so yeah, this was a similar process, but generally more streamlined and a lot quicker!!! Also, all of the songs were written in a very short time frame, which I think helped with the general consistency...

If Scarlet was the reflection of all the music you hear, how do you define ... And The Truth Will Set You Free...?

Well, I was very proud of 'Scarlet', but I felt like it was maybe a little too eclectic... I listen to so many different styles of music, and so there were a lot of different moods and textures on there... but for 'The Truth' I wanted a stronger and more concise

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album. A more definitive statement. So I left off playing any keyboards this time, and took all the things that I thought worked really well on 'Scarlet', and focused on making those elements even better on the new one...

By the way, any particular meaning to this title? How it appears?

It's just so very difficult to find the truth in anything nowadays... there are just so many lies now in the news, media and on the internet... cover ups and conspiracies... it's almost impossible to find the truth in anything. Even in pictures... you rarely see a picture in a magazine nowadays that hasn't been drastically photo shopped, altered or manipulated in some way.... And a lot of music is like that now too, due to the advent of computer technology... And I get so tired of hearing all the manufactured rubbish that they play on chart radio stations nowadays... sampled drum loops, programmed bass, keyboard 'strings' and various stupid noises... quantised, digitised, sanitised junk, with 'vocals' that have been compressed and autotuned within an inch of their miserable life!!! I mean, there's more personality in a digital answer machine!! No one is actually 'playing' anything on those tracks!! There's no heart, no soul, no emotion.... It's just very loud, computerised bleepy noises for drunk, brainless idiots to jump up and down to.... So (for me anyway) this album presents the 'truth' from a musical standpoint... real drums, real bass, real guitar... no loops, no autotune... just three guys in a room, playing music together... even the pictures are untouched... no photoshop!! :O))

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About the musicians, you keep the same team with Pete Riley and Phil Williams. It was a natural choice?

Yeah, totally.... a good chemistry in a band is essential, but it's so hard to find... I guess that's why there are so few great bands!! But for me something special happens when the three of us play together... I wish we did it more often!!

And you worked again with a string ensemble, this time The Larkin Quartet. Once again you made the arrangements for the strings?

Yeah... I even wrote them out on manuscript paper!! The quartet commented on that when they arrived actually, as they hadn't seen hand written music for quite some time... nowadays most music is printed out using something like 'Finale' or 'Sibelius'.... which of course is absolutely fine... But for me it's just something else to take you further away from reality... further away from physical act of writing things down... When it's handwritten, there's just more... I don't know, 'personality' in there.... I wanted to get back to the way that Mozart, Debussy and Bach did it!! :O))

Before this album you were involved in The Wall tour. How this tour did influenced your work in this album?

I don't think it influenced it directly at all, other than to inspire me to record another album of my own music... There is a track on the album though (called 'Stardust'), which has a very Floydian influence... but it's more from the 'Shine On...' period, which I heard when I was younger. I loved 'Wish You Were Here' when I was growing up... I never actually heard 'The Wall' until 2010!!!

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Between your two albums you had an acoustic experience with Murray Hockridge. Which are your feelings about that experience?

I really love that album ('Closer to Earth'), and we purposely chose those tunes to present a beautiful, atmospheric experience for the listener... When we played together live though, it was always a lot crazier... a much more improvised, spontaneously organic thing, with tons of energy... And actually, after the craziness of playing huge stadiums with Roger to 70,000, there was something really lovely about playing to a small group of people... it's much more emotional... more intensely intimate... being able to see and interact with the audience... to feel the energy and the atmosphere in the room... I'd love to do more gigs like that, and actually we were booked to tour again last October/November in Europe... but unfortunately I had to cancel the tour... that car accident really messed up all my plans last year...

Besides your work and playing with Roger Waters, are you collaborating in some other projects?

No... I haven't been able to play the guitar for many months, and actually it's only been in the last few days that I've managed to start playing again...

About a tour, there is anything schedule by now?

Not at the moment. I think it would be really tough to tour under my own name... even established bands are finding it incredibly difficult to make a tour work financially nowadays.... but I've recently been asked to play guitar with Steven Wilson on his US

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tour!!!!!! :O)) I'm so incredibly excited and happy about that!!! I really love his last few albums... and actually, I can't think of ANYONE else I can say that about!!!

Well Dave, thank you once again. There is any message you want to leave?

Yes... please check out the little promo video for my new album!! Really hope you enjoy it... :O))<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FmE9ATrIckI>

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