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CHAPTER 22 THE NEW POWER FILES

Here's the exclusive code for Powerplay readers: CM22 (the pass code is case-sensitive and the link will expire at the end of March 2023).

Group One: Power/Heavy/Progressive/Symphonic

1. Oathbringer 'Alone In The Night'
From the album: 'Tales Of Glory'
www.facebook.com/oathbringeruk

2. Caroline Breiter 'Mistaken'
From the album: 'The Guide Within'
www.carolinebreiter.com

3. Roxor 'Železnej Král (The Iron King)'
From the album: 'Železnej Král (The Iron King)'
www.roxorheavy.cz

4. Starstrike 'Let's Go To Hell'
From the album: 'Legacy Or Destiny'
www.facebook.com/starstrikeofficial

5. Thumda 'Lord Of The Night'
From the album: 'Enlightened'
www.facebook.com/thyheavythumda

6. Blowtorch 'Asses On Shoulders'
From the album: 'Hangoverdose'
www.blowtorchband.com

7. Slanderus 'Espiritu'
From the album: 'Absorbing Infinity'
www.facebook.com/Slanderus

8. ArkNess 'Six Steps Of Madness'
From the album: 'Tales From The InBetween'
www.facebook.com/ArkNess.musicBand

9. Anken 'Sevenadur'
From the album: 'Khondate'
www.facebook.com/ankenmetallband

10. The Redhead Project 'Faults Exposed'
From the album: 'The Mask I Wear'
www.facebook.com/theredheadproject

11. EGRES 'My Universe'
From the album: 'Introspection'
www.facebook.com/egresband

12. Vortex 'Horrible Dolls'
From the album: 'Them Witches'
www.facebook.com/VortexHeavyMetal

13. Direlands 'Singularity'
From the album: 'Ascension'
www.facebook.com/Direlands

Group Two: Thrash/Death Metal
14. Fearwell 'Well Of Fear'
From the album: 'Well Of Fear'
www.fearwell.com

15. This Ending 'Annihilate'
From the album: 'Needles Of Rust'
www.facebook.com/ThisEndingband

16. Nex Locus 'Greater Heights'
From the album: 'Spiritual Playground'
www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063601236912

17. Mercaptan 'Suicide Mission'
From the album: 'Shadows Of The Cross'
www.facebook.com/mercaptan.band

18. Eye and Eye 'Feathers & Fangs'
From the album: 'L'Air du Temps'
<https://eyeandeye1.bandcamp.com>

19. Exiled On Earth 'Psychic Retaliator'
From the album: 'The Onyx Path'
www.exiledonearth.com

Group Three: Hard Rock/Melodic Rock/AOR
20. Leather Boys 'Born In The Seventies'
From the album: 'Born In The Seventies And Reborn In The Seventies'
www.facebook.com/TheReal.L LeatherBoys

21. Raider 'Dusk Till Dawn'
From the album: 'Runaway'
www.facebook.com/raidermusicuk

22. Red Zone 'On The Mountain'
From the album: 'Tribulations'
www.redzonerock.com/

23. Black Nazareth 'Rivers Run Deep'
From the album: 'Black Nazareth'
www.blacknazareth.com

24. Storm Resistant 'Identity'
From the album: 'Storm Resistant'
www.facebook.com/stormresistantband

25. Five O Seven 'Shake It'
From the album: 'Turn On The Night'
www.facebook.com/five0sevenband/

26. Pandemic Wave 'Convulsion'
From the album: 'Pandemic Wave'
www.pandemicwave.com/

27. Stereo Rex 'Dead N Gone'
From the album: 'Stranger Than Fiction'
www.sterorex.com

28. Night Stinger 'Beat It'
From the album: 'Night Stinger'
www.facebook.com/nitestinger

29. Black Sheriff 'Supersonic'
From the album: 'Time To Burn'
www.facebook.com/blacksheriffrock

30. Slackjaw Gazers 'Heaven Bound'
From the album: 'Vol. 1'
www.facebook.com/slackjawgazers

Group Four: Blues Rock/Classic Rock/Southern Rock

31. Rik Meijer 'I'm a Runner'
From the album: 'Rik Meijer'
<https://rik.meijer.com/>

32. Christina Skjølberg 'Sugar And Love'
From the album: 'Y'm On Fire'
www.facebook.com/ChristinaSkjolberg

33. Taboo Blues Band 'Stay Away'
From the album: 'Never Too Old'
www.facebook.com/taboo bluesband

34. Sam Morrison Band 'Straight Outta Jacksonville'
From the album: 'Unfinished Business'
www.sammorrisonband.com

35. The Pinx 'You're Not The One'
From the album: 'The Pinx'
www.thepinxrock.com

Welcome to Chapter 22 of The New Power Files, featuring 70 awesome new rock and metal songs – free for you to download.

To grab the mp3 files, band info, and Nicky's 'The Music Is Out There' PDF interviews, go to www.powerplaymagazine.co.uk. Click on the Power Files tab and then the link to download the zip file for The New Power Files Chapter 20. Enter the pass code when prompted. It should be straightforward but if you have any problems with downloading the files, give us a call on 0161 3391035. Enjoy the music!

36. Royce 'Blow Them Away!'
From the album: 'We Can Win'
<https://roycemusic.net/>

37. Gramophone 'Hey Hey Dog'
From the album: 'Bad Machine'
<https://en.gb.facebook.com/gramophone>

38. Planet Of Rhythm 'Nightmare Extreme'
From the album: 'One Track Mind'
www.facebook.com/planetofrhythm

39. George Faber And Stronghold 'Nothing I Won't Do'
From the album: 'George Faber And Stronghold'
www.chatfieldentertainment.com

40. D2UR 'Right Now'
From the single: 'Right Now'
www.d2ur.net

41. Max On The Rox 'Band Is Back'
From the album: 'Rox Motel, Bar And Grill'
www.facebook.com/MaxOnTheRox

42. Ten Eyed Man 'Clockwork'
From the album: 'From Beneath A Pallid Sky'
www.facebook.com/teneyedman

43. InRegalia 'Best of Us'
From the album: 'Tigh'
www.facebook.com/inregalia

Group Five: Progressive Rock/Instrumental
44. Tempus Cucumis 'Manny Goes for Pizza'
From the album: 'The Story Of C And The Lowering Skies'
www.facebook.com/TempusCucumis

45. Versa 'Pool Of The Naiads'
From the album: 'A Voyage/A Destination'
www.versa.music.com

46. Entransient 'Wooden Idols'
From the album: 'Ghosts In The Halls'
www.facebook.com/Entransient

47. Secret Alliance 'The Sixth Event'
From the album: 'Revelation'
www.facebook.com/SecretAlliance.1017493275073438

48. Davide Rinaldi 'The Crow, The Swan and The Phoenix'
From the album: 'Ouroboros'
www.facebook.com/mrdavidrinaldi

49. Inner Prospekt 'Gymnoectomie'
From the album: 'Grey Origin'
www.facebook.com/innerprospekt

Group Six: Alt Rock/Alt Metal/Indie/Punk
50. Plastic Rhino 'Scream So Loud'
From the album: 'Terminus'
www.plasticrhinoband.com

51. Distant Mantra 'So Jealous'
From the album: 'Solitude Republic'
<https://distantmantra.com>

52. Deux Furieuses 'Bring Down The Government'
From the album: 'Songs From Planet Earth'
www.deuxfuries.com

53. Julian Shah-Taylor 'End of the Line (Chatfield Remix)'
From the album: 'Elysium'
<http://thesingularitymusic.bandcamp.com>

54. Bandaid Brigade 'Hit The Buck'
From the album: 'Sex Is Terrifying'
www.facebook.com/bandaidbrigadeband

55. Sunthing Strange 'Rain On Me'
From the album: 'Sunthing Strange'
www.sunthingstrange.com

56. 800 Years Of Coma 'Spectre'
From the album: 'Placebo'
<https://800yearsofcoma.com>

57. Pet Needs 'Get On The Roof'
From the album: 'Primetime Entertainment'
www.petneedsband.com

58. Bullet To The Heart . Falling Away
From the album: 'Transcendence'
www.facebook.com/BulletToTheHeart1Band

59. November's Oath 'Rise & Fall'
From the album: 'Rise & Fall'
www.facebook.com/NovembersOath

60. Delenda Est 'The Odd One Out'
From the album: 'The Odd One Out'
www.delendaestofficial.com

Group Seven: The Editor's Collection
61. Even Flow 'Ray Of Light'
From the EP: 'Mediterraneo'
www.facebook.com/bandevenflow

62. Drenalize 'Strangers In The Mirrors'
From the album: 'Edge Of Tomorrow'
www.facebook.com/drenalizeofficial

63. Star Circus 'Just Like In A Movie'
From the album: 'Separate Sides'
www.facebook.com/DWStarCircus

64. Jordan Red 'Don't Let The Heavens Fall'
From the album: 'Hands That Built The World'
www.facebook.com/jordanredband

65. Traitor 'Total Thrash feat. Tom Angelripper'
From the album: 'Exiled To The Surface'
www.facebook.com/traitorthrash

66. Skipping Stone 'Hurricane'
From the EP: 'Hurricanes & Hand Grenades'
www.facebook.com/SkippingStoneOfficial

67. Femegades 'Big Plans'
From the EP: 'Not All Men'
www.facebook.com/femegades

68. Black Hornet 'The Truth'
From the album: 'Remove Before Flight'
www.facebook.com/BlackHornetBand

69. Oath SC 'Disposable'
From the album: 'Hallowed Illusions'
www.facebook.com/oathsc

70. Sea Of Snakes 'Third Kind'
From the album: 'The Serpent And The Lamb'
www.facebook.com/seaofsnakesband

BLACK NAZARETH

Band: Black Nazareth
Album Title: Black Nazareth
Label: Wormhole Death Records
Genre: Classic Rock/Metal



Description:

A hard living, hard rocking band sharing whatever that moves them through the music they make.

Influences:

Mostly ourselves, besides that: Motörhead, Billy Idol, Judas Priest, Depeche Mode, KISS, Soundgarden, Alice In Chains, Pantera, Paradise Lost, amongst many others.

Band Line-up:

Daniël de Jongh - Vocals
Menno Gootjes - Guitars
Henry McIlveen - Bass

Martijn Spierenburg -
Keys/sounds

CD Track listing:

- 1- The Rallying Cry
- 2- Ride
- 3- Cold As Stone
- 4- Drops Of Sorrow
- 5- Thrive
- 6- Waiting For Tomorrow
- 7- Heroes
- 8- Rivers Run Deep

Hailing from Schiedam, The Netherlands, we find **Rock/Metal quartet BLACK NAZARETH** and they have an excellent new eleven track self-titled album out now which runs in at just over fifty-five minutes long and is the band's debut full release which has been put together from a string of single they put out along with a recent song called 'Drops Of Sorrow.'

It's Sunday night at 00:30 and the band are enjoying a beer with Spaghetti. "It's summer man, and I must say they get hotter every year it seems, so loads of mosquitos to bug us during this one," laughs bassist Henry McIlveen. One of the things that sets Black Nazareth apart from other bands, is the fact that the guys identify their music with their hometown, called Schiedam. "It's a medium size city in the Netherlands,

right next to the Port of Europe called Rotterdam. Black Nazareth is literally an English translation of 'Zwart Nazareth.' Which used to be the nickname of Schiedam during the eighteen-hundreds up until the beginning of the twentieth century," explains the bassist. "This includes the Black Romantic period, which is very Gothic, and we all love that right? This city has been built up since the thirteenth century and began to blossom during the eighteenth century through the production of an alcoholic drink called jenever.



The import of booze stopped during that time and Schiedam thrived on it. During those days you could see the black smoke from the distilleries darkening the skies from miles away. Black tar on the ropes of the ships transporting the booze out of town made the workmen look tar black as well. Often, they

would be paid out not in cash, but in free booze. Sounds like musicians right," he laughs. " That background, apart from me personally connected to it since my ancestors created the bottle labels, advertisements, and stained-glass decorations in the distilleries, just fits a hard rocking, hardworking metal/rock-band.



And it opens a lot of doors to concepts for artwork and lyrical content. It's a big inspiration to us. Also, the working class, hard labour, live hard/ die hard thing you know? That is what we represent. I mean, even the Nosferatu movie was shot right here in this city, that's fucking metal man," he enthuses. "The second thing that sets us apart is the fact that we are all seasoned musicians who have toured with several very successful bands (Within Temptation, Textures, Focus, Threnody) , and still are, and we joined together in this venture to create our own unique thing, and proud of it."

What started guitarist Menno Gootjes off was seeing KISS on TV when he was four years old, and his older brother bringing their records home. "They confused me, I didn't know if it was good music or not, but I felt the impact, and it pissed my parents off," he chuckles. "So, I set up a playback KISS-show in school with my

mates and we did it, and I considered that my first actual show. All the kids were scared shitless. I was the Catman (Peter Criss) playing the drums by the way. And my teacher said: ' you're very good at this Menno!.' And I took that to heart and knew what I was going to do," he expresses. Seeing Disney's Aristocats also made a huge impact on him at around the same time, and the guitarist wanted to be like those jazz cat's man. He had studied classical piano from the age of eight, and in high school he got asked to join a band.



"They needed a guitar player, and I said I would give it a try. And man, that opened up everything. It just came so naturally and before I knew it, I was teaching myself every hard rocking tune by ear that I wanted to learn. Hendrix, Motorhead, Van Halen, Metallica, Satriani and Vai. Then I made my first record being sixteen years old with Moon Of Sorrow ('Tears' 1991, independent). Leading to my first record deal with Ignition records making one more record with them. Then following the Jazz-education at the Conservatory in Rotterdam led to me teaching at that same place and still doing it besides getting me a career in session-playing for numerous Dutch and European artists and touring with them. In the last eleven years I've been touring the

world with prog rock legends Focus. So, I guess it just happened, coming from really truly wanting it to happen," he enthuses.

Singer Daniël de Jongh had always had an interest in music, and his mother told him that since he was a baby he was fascinated by music and instruments.



When he turned one year old, his godmother gave him a little xylophone and since then he was banging on the machine. "My mother told my godmother that I would be great in music when I would turn older. My godmother laughed at my mother's remark, but hey look at me now.



In a later stadium I got increasingly interested in music and playing instruments. Every instrument I would get my hands to I

would try to play," he tells me.

When he was seven there was a marching band which was playing on his primary school to recruit new players. It was the youth department, and he was absolutely obsessed seeing this big group of people in suits creating this majestic sound walking in straight line. "I ran to my mother and said, "this is what I want to do, I want to join them." And the rest was history. I played the trumpet in that marching band for over twelve and a half years. Also, the fascination of bands and artists and their music just had a grip on me. As a kid I listened to what my mom was listening, which was a lot of Beatles, Queen, Fleetwood Mac, Elton John etc. Later on, I discovered Michael Jackson, of which I was big fan of as so many other youngsters in the eighties. I even started to dress like him and would do playback-shows on my primary school. Completely obsessed on the guy," he smiles. His love for Rock and Metal developed in the late eighties and early nineties. "Maybe even because of Michael Jackson's song Beat it, with Eddy van Halen on guitar sparked that fire. The rise of bands like Guns n' Roses, Metallica, Van Halen and later Faith No More, Soundgarden, Pantera, Machine Head, Tool etc. really got a grip on me. I wanted to collect and be everything they did and were. Apart from the drugs and booze of course. That wasn't something I wasn't interested in at the time. Those bands were the main reason I wanted to play guitar and sing. Also, that was the reason I got into my first band at the age of twelve. The guys who asked me to play also were in the same marching band as I was in. They noticed me walking around in mainly Guns 'n Roses T-shirts and asked if I

played the guitar. And in fact, I did," he smiles. He then started playing the guitar around when he was ten. "I just got my first electric guitar, a Squier Stratocaster. Since then, we played every week in a bulb-shed. It didn't matter if it was thirty degrees or minus twenty. We kept on going every weekend. We even slept there now and then. Eventually it was my first successful band called Smogus. We released three albums, videoclips, played on big festivals like Ozzfest when we were older and shared the stage with bands like Slayer, Disturbed, Korn, Static-X, Ill Niño. So, my dream as a little boy came true with my first band after a lot of hard work.



And it was a giant leap for my further musical career," expresses the singer. It was in the early eighties, when keyboardist Martijn Spiereburg visited his aunt's house and saw this portable harmonium on the shelf. He was so fascinated by it, that she told him that he could borrow it for a while. After playing around with it for a while, the future keyboardist decided that he wanted to dive into this. So, he begged his parents to buy him a keyboard, which even at that time, had multiple sounds and effects. "I was able to experiment even more. One of the conditions for me to have a keyboard was, that I would also take keyboard playing lessons so I would actually know how to play stuff instead of just experimenting," he explains to me. So, with that he went to the local music school and started his first lesson there. For the following years he

continued with lessons and by the end of secondary school he was asked to do the music for their school musical. At that time, he bought his first Apple computer so that he would be able to make his first midi sequences and recordings. "Months later, after the musical was performed for the whole school, I decided that I wanted to take this whole music adventure much further. So, I took admission to the HKU Music Technology programme in Hilversum, the Netherlands. And it was at this time that Henry, who I never met before, called me to ask if I would like to join a new band: every week I took my master keyboard (I traded in my keyboards for bigger and better stuff several times," he smiles. "I took the midi equipment on the train to Schiedam where our rehearsal room was. After graduating I started working as a studio assistant in two big studios in the Netherlands and the band that we had changed into building our own studio in Schiedam. After a while I got a message from Robert Westerholt. He, Jeroen van Veen and I were in the same secondary school and a few years ago. They had started a band called "Within Temptation" together with his girlfriend Sharon den Adel and they were looking for a new keyboard player. I thought it would be fun to do a show once in a while besides my studio work. So, I decided to join them. And now, twenty-two years later, I'm still with this band and me and Henry got a great new band too, together with Menno Gootjes and Daniël de Jongh: Black Nazareth," expresses Martijn. Like any other person involved in music, for Henry it started with interest in any form of music at a young age. He grew up with music in the family, many played piano, and he started investigating piano when he was six years

old before taking lessons when he was seven. "Of course, my older brother ruined this classical music path by introducing me to a lot of hard music. Iron Maiden, Saxon and then Judas Priest and so forth. I loved the sound of distorted guitar, the power, and the energy," he enthuses. As a child he was experimenting with old valve amplifiers to make a heavier sound on his brothers cheap-ass guitar which he stole all the time. "I wanted this too, I wanted to be in a band. Doing playback shows at school, air-guitaring with friends, trading tapes, I sucked it all in.



The booming eighties and nineties with all the death, gore, and thrash metal, I loved it! Paradise Lost, Metallica and Slayer was a daily fix. So, I started playing bass in a band at school called Threnody and kept that up till 2005. Martijn and I did have a studio for a while as we are both very, very much interested in sound. In the end it all started with a young passion evolving in a professional one," he says with spirit.

For Black Nazareth Menno's musical inspirations are mainly: all hard-rocking hits that he has known since childhood such as KISS, Deep Purple, Zeppelin, Sabbath, Mötley Crüe, and Hendrix. But also, newer old things like Queens Of The

Stone Age, Sermon, Gojira, Tool, Pantera, Devin Townsend etc... "I'm also heavily influenced by classical music like Bach, Bartok, and Stravinsky. And Zappa. My initial idea for our track Rivers Run Deep, for instance, came about making a simple rocking tune based on Billy Idol's songs you know. Which is quite a hard thing to write really! And Motorhead remains a huge part of my inspiration also," he expresses.

Daniël also has a lot of musical interests. "I don't just have one album or band. My favourite vocalists and personal iconic heroes are Mike Patton and Chris Cornell. Those two were the ones which formed me mainly as a vocalist. The diversity and their range just blew me away and made me practice like crazy to get on their level as much as possible. I just wanted to do what they did, and I was positive that I had that in me. I just loved everything they touched from Chris's Soundgarden, Temple of the Dog, Audioslave and his fantastic solo-work to Mike's Faith No More, Mr. Bungle, Fantomas, the EP "Irony is a Dead Thing" he did with Dillinger Escape Plan was all just majestic," he marvels. Back in Martijn's youth he was not very interested in rock and metal music, and he mostly listened to pop and most of the time his parent's heard artists like Peter Gabriël, Paul Simon and Simple Minds coming out of the speakers in his bedroom. "Sometimes I discovered a song (on the radio or on a record that I borrowed from a friend) that really touched me in a way so that I had to keep listening to it. Later I've found out that those songs had one thing in common: they were produced by Trevor Horn. So, I think I can say that the way he produced and artists like Peter Gabriël and Paul Simon have inspired me as a

musician. Later I also discovered some more rock-oriented bands like Alice in Chains, Rammstein and Paradise Lost. I really feel that those bands also had a big influence on the way I make music nowadays," he tells me. "Back in 2000 when me and Henry had our studio in Schiedam, an album that we played a lot was Garbage-Version 2.0. While working on the Black Nazareth songs and production, many times while discussing the direction sound-wise, we had this Garbage album as an example for layering and broadening the total sound of the band. But one of the things we kept in mind was, that whatever we would do or add, the songs should always keep a certain transparency. Another thing we tried to achieve with the production of the Black Nazareth album, was to get the energy in the songs like Rammstein has." For Henry it was not so much bound to one kind of music. "Growing up with Beatles, Chopin and Beethoven evolving in my taste for harder pop/rock music, I think I was open for a lot. But the common denominator would be power with emotion. Music that is raw in feeling but heavy in sound. I loved the crossovers that Accept, and many other German metal bands, did between rock and classic in the day. But what really kicked in was Defenders of the Faith and Unleashed in the East by Priest. The synchronicity between guitar and rest of band, the power, so amazing," he enthuses. "The drama of Kiss and Maiden! But I also had an absolute fascination for all the pop/rock combinations bands like Garbage and Audioslave made. Still love bands like the old U2 and The Mission. I think with Black Nazareth a lot comes together, a wish for drama, dark versus light, good broad sound and a strong production. Songs to

remember with strong lyrics and melody-lines."

Outside of music Menno has a lot of interest in Theology, Occult knowledge, biology, science, drawing, visual arts. "Anything artistic really, classic literature. Basically, I'm just very curious to any knowledge I can acquire," he adds. Daniël works in healthcare as a Personal Coach in a home for children who have mental disabilities, autism, ADHD, and behavioural problems. "That is a huge interest besides music, which is the reason I already do this work for over eighteen years. The main reason is because it is so diverse and there isn't single a day which is the same. These guys keep you sharp and you learn from them every single day. Especially in looking to yourself in a different way, because nine out of the ten times they behave in a different way is because of us as the professional. It also developed me as a human being and individual. In the past I could be quite shy, but this work made me a lot more secure, and it also helped me in being a frontman on stage. Because of the fact you already have to know what you're saying on the spot to your clients, and you have to be very sure of yourself, I could take that with me on stage. From being insecure and not knowing what to say on stage I eventually just couldn't care less and just started to talk about everything that came in my mind. Sometimes a little bit too much according to my former bandmates," he chuckles.

Martijn has been blessed to be able to work as a professional musician for more than twenty years now. "I have no other job besides music at this moment. Nowadays I live in an old farmhouse in the south of the Netherlands where I also have my own small studio.

When there is no touring, then that's the place where I can be found most of the time. But also doing small repairs around the house is one of the burdens of owning and old house. So, I need to put some time in to that, but I became pretty handy since the last fifteen years," he chuckles. "Because touring with a band may not necessarily be the healthiest thing to do, I try to do sports two or three times a week. Something that I can do at home and while being on tour is jogging. The nice thing about jogging on tour is that it takes you to places where you normally wouldn't go when sitting in a night-liner or in a taxi from and to the airport. By the way, I learned the hard way that one should NEVER go out for a run without navigation. Once I was on a festival in Belgium and I had to be on stage at mid-night. Around eight I decided that there was still plenty of time left for a run. Maybe one and a half our max, I told my tour manager. The only thing was that I forgot to check if my navigation's battery was still full. So, when I was half-way my run, the battery died: no more navigation. I got back fifteen minutes before the show would start and they already started to form search teams to look for me In the weekends or the holidays, I try to spend as much time with my family as possible. I have two kids, an eleven-year-old girl, and an eight-year-old boy. He still likes to play with Lego, but he just want to build the stuff and not looking for the right blocks. So, playing together with him usually means that I'm the one looking for all the tiny pieces," he smiles. Henry also has many interests outside Black Nazareth that teach him things that he can also use for the band. "I did some work as repairing electronic equipment, studio engineer

and a lot of management. Build my own house and studio. We recorded many takes in my small studio in Holland. I am fascinated by the total product bands like Rammstein, and Metallica make, covering every aspect of being a fan of music. That's probably why I butt in with every aspect of the band," he smiles. "Good graphic designs, video productions and photography can get me very excited. I love to travel, enjoy a good wine with dinner and friends.



I am married with a Brazilian and blessed to be able to travel a couple of times to South America to learn the real culture. I love meeting different people and enjoy other cultures very much, including the music. Last time I was in Sao Paulo a friend took us to a traditional samba bar, it was just amazing. I love doing things like that. I have three very creative kids, they dance and play music and are becoming very opinionated young people, which is probably one of my biggest achievements."

The new self-titled album is the sum-up of all the singles that the band have released online thus far, with one extra song called 'Drops Of Sorrow' added. "It represents the band exactly the way we are. I'm not fond of categorising, but if I have to, I'd say it's classic hard rock/metal, and maybe some prog/industrial,

influenced by all the bands in those styles that came before us, and we love listening to, produced in a modern way. And written mostly in standard song-form. Not that consciously though, but we want it to be in your face without getting too complicated about it you know? We like to experiment though, but not at the cost of the message, lyrically or musically, you know what I mean," says Henry. "I find it a truly unique experience musically, where everyone in the band has the experience and craft to deliver exactly what is needed for the track we're writing, and the result of that is this album now, which makes us proud and excited," he enthuses. The songs deal with the more gloomy, introspective, and dark matters of life. "I mean, it's the kind of stuff that every human has to face sometime in their life, especially the hard rocking outcasts. And we're down with that man. Wormhole Death Records were very enthusiastic about what we put out and we were looking for a way to put out an album to get the press going. Because the press prefers album-releases mostly. And they came up with a very good deal and great ideas about promoting it, and so we happily went for it."

As mentioned, the songs were originally singles that are now presented as an album instead of a string of single releases. "It does make a difference. With this album-release we make a full statement. It's the result of a couple of years of making single tracks and putting them out online, finding out what we're about, and trying out different things and see what the reactions would be online. But we quickly found out that only being online, quite successfully promoting it independently, wasn't enough. So, getting it out as an album through a record

label got us the attention it initially lacked, and we're very happy about that.," he enthuses.

The album was recorded, edited, and premixed at Soundpark Studio's in Black Nazareth (Schiedam), the Netherlands. That studio is the home-ground of quite some Dutch metal history actually." A lot of stuff has been recorded there for our former death metal band Threnody (former death metal band of Henry and me in the nineties) and Within Temptation (Martijn) since both Martijn and Henry used to own it. Now it's Henry's mainstay. So, you could call it a professional home recording really! Ernst van Ee (Dutch metal drum legend who played with Helloise, Vengeance, Threnody and Highway Chile) recorded drums for us. And we produced it ourselves, but most decisions technically were made by Martijn and Henry I must say. Most tracks have been mixed by Stefan Helleblad (who you may know as one of the guitarists of Within Temptation) at Big Hat Studios in Stockholm, Sweden. The tracks 'The Rallying Cry' and 'Thrive' were mixed by Cris Simoes at Pacific Audio Studio in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. Mastering was done by Renzo van Riemsdijk at Masterenzo Mastering, Rotterdam, Holland except for 'The Rallying Cry,' which was done by Wagner Icy Sasaki in Brazil. Yup we're all over the place," laughs Menno. The process took years and Menno started making demos with Henry in 2017. "I was on the road a lot with Focus but wanted to work out these hard rock ideas. And since Henry and I worked so great creatively during our Threnody years (I joined in on their tour for the album 'Bewildering Thoughts', Massacre Records 1995, and cowriting and recording the album 'Threnody',

Massacre Records 1997) I knew I wanted to work with him again. And I wanted to work with Daniel on vocals for sure, for a long time already. So, when the music came together a bit both Henry and I wondered what to do with it. And first of all, he had to let go of the idea of making this into a 'Threnody 2.0.' He was, rightfully so, very attached to that band. That took some time, and I thought it was important to go through that process first. Then we landed Black Nazareth. It's a great name, based first of all on one of Threnody's songs called the same way. The idea clicked and opened up so many possibilities creatively," he smiles. "Then Daniel joined and everything we put into his headphones; he would just drop the lyrics with these great lines in one go! Martijn joined adding his key-wizardry and producing/songwriting skills. And then we were off! Which I'm so thankful for. It took about a couple of days, time wise, per track after that." Menno cites the song 'Waiting For Tomorrow' as one of his highlights as it has a very special meaning to for the guitarist. "It was released exactly a day before my mother died, and I visited her on her deathbed on the day before the release. And I bloody well knew it. The same counts for "Rivers Run Deep" and "Drops Of Sorrow", which were released during breakups of the most significant relationship I have (apart from the one I have with my daughter). It's very special, because somehow Henry and Daniel, who write the lyrics in this band, always seem to write about the stuff that's going on in my life, without really knowing about it. And I'm just providing the music, together with Martijn. So, there's definitely a subconscious connection going on between us, and we understand each other on that level, down there, in the

deep, or the high plane, somewhere. I'm very grateful for that," he says with gratitude.

The band are working on getting out on the road starting somewhere next year. "We can't wait to get out, and we will! Most of us have touring obligations till January with other acts anyway, and in the meantime, we're checking touring possibilities for next year. With a permanent drummer, which you will find out about very soon, we're very fortunate to have him on board man! We're hoping to gain the biggest audience possible for our music and being able to put up the show we want give them, which will be big."

The future for Black Nazareth will bring you a second full length album from for sure.

"Hopefully within a year actually. At the moment I'm not sure whether we will put out some new singles online again first or not, still figuring that out right now. But there's a lot of new material waiting to be finished in the studio as we speak. And I mean loads of it. We have so much in stock we could fill two more albums if we wanted to really! Also, we'll be starting to play live and get that rolling as much and often as we can. We're here to stay, you can count on that. There will be no future without Black Nazareth in it," concludes Menno, bringing an end to our conversation.

The album is available on all streaming platforms with a physical CD-release out soon.

Check the band out at:

<https://blacknazareth.com/>
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