

# THE MUSIC IS OUT THERE

By Nicky Baldrian



EDGE OF FOREVER

Italian melodic rockers EDGE OF FOREVER are back with their well accepted third release 'Another Paradise' Alessandro Del Vecchio chatted with me about the new album and the band in general. Alessandro started in music more than sixteen years ago, getting his first recording contract at sixteen with an Italian progressive rock band. 'We used to record on 1.5 inch tape,' recalls Alessandro. 'We still used to buy CDs and the music scene wasn't wide as today. Today you can produce top notch records in your sitting room, you deal with iPod's and mp3s, and MySpace, Facebook and Youtube have opened the horizons for music as never before.'

Edge Of Forever was born in 2002 when Alessandro and Matteo Carnio wanted to put together a melodic hard rock band besides their other bands. Francesco Jovino, who is with U.D.O., soon joined the band and after a year they were signed by MTM Music. The band were united in their path with Bob Harris of Axe and Frank Zappa Band. 'We did two records with MTM and worked with amazing musicians like the late Marcel Jacob, Jeff Scott Soto and Bobby Barth. Since the beginning we've been the top AOR act in Italy and we opened the road to bands like Myland or Hungryheart who didn't ever think of doing melodic rock in this non-rock country.'

'Another Paradise' is a mirror of who Edge Of Forever are today. Straight, pure melodic hard rock. Alessandro produced the record and he wanted this one to sound as if they were live on stage. 'We didn't want to sound as virtuoso as in the past; we cut solos and structures to avoid any kind of repetition,' he explains. 'Our main focus is on the song, the melody and the big hooks on the chorus. If in the past somebody compared us to Yngwie Malmsteen or Rainbow, our influences today are Winger, House Of Lords, Foreigner and bands like that. The new members, Walter Caliaro and Nik Mazzucconi, made these choices really easy as their vision for the band is amazingly the same as mine.'

'Another Paradise' was recorded at Alessandro's studio in Italy. Drums and some guitars and bass were done in an external studio, but the main work was done at Ivorytears Music. 'I produced the record as I knew exactly where I wanted to go. We've been lucky being produced in the past by people like Marcel Jacob and Bobby Barth. When you have such genius like them behind the desk you cannot ask for more. They did a marvellous work on 'Feeding The Fire' and 'Let The Demon Rock 'n' Roll', but this time I didn't think I needed anybody else to do it. I am the main man behind the song writing and I have amazing musicians as weapons in this band, so we really wanted to do it by ourselves and give our vision a chance. I'm really proud of the result. The production is pristine, the drums sound is bombastic, and the mix classier than ever and the general sound is awesome even thanks to Michael Voss who did a terrific work on the mastering. I love to work with Michael and I think he's one of the most underrated musicians today. He should produce bands like Journey, Foreigner or Chicago. He's talented above average and surprisingly humble.'

The band is currently promoting the new record. 'We have already got super reviews in Japan and people seem to like us so we are looking forward to tour there. We're planning an Italian tour for the spring and some summer shows. We're about to shoot the video for the song 'Distant Voices' which is gonna be cool for Youtube and other music TV channels like Rock TV, which is really popular in Italy. After that I'd like to have the next record done for the winter, but now our main focus is on giving this record the highest exposure and presence on the scene. For any news on our future plans keep an eye on our website [www.edgeofforever.it](http://www.edgeofforever.it)



CROP CIRCLE

If you enjoy a dose of modern alternative rock then take a listen to Canadian band CROP CIRCLE whose new CD 'Come Inside' is bloody brilliant. I chatted briefly with Ben Darbey (drums) and Brian Garbet (guitar) who were high school buddies that used to play together. After school they eventually found each other again and started this melodic, aggressive hard rock unit that just keeps evolving into different areas of music. Ben loves his soccer and Sean is into marathons, whilst Brian is a massive ice hockey addict. Put all that in a blender, add some beer and that's pretty much about how Crop Circle sound.

Ben explains about the new album. 'It took a while to iron everything out, but it finally got done and we are proud of it! A very real sounding record with no gadgets and gadgets, just rock! I think it is important music for people to hear,' he says.

'Honest music written with no preconceptions or rules but we tipped our hat to our influences and favourite bands,' adds Brian.

The CD was recorded at the mighty Greenhouse Studio in Vancouver, B.C., Canada and was produced by Todd Kearns, from Age of Electric and Static in Stereo fame! The bands gigs also seem to be going down a storm. 'Our live shows are like getting run over by a freight train!! But everyone survives and comes away feeling better than when they arrived,' laughs Ben. 'We do have a knack for going into a town for the first time and winning the crowd over,' Brian enthuses.

'We are already writing for a new album,' explains Ben, 'We are continuing to tour, to share our music and passion with all those who will listen. Would love to come your way soon.'

'We're very excited about some new material we're working on, definitely looking forward to hitting the studio again and tracking these songs,' concludes Brian. Check this rather excellent band out at [www.cropcircle.ca](http://www.cropcircle.ca) or [www.myspace.com/cropcircleband](http://www.myspace.com/cropcircleband)



HURON

'Cheyne Stoking' is the latest CD from UK based metallers HURON. The band have gained themselves a selection of hot reviews from the likes of Metal Hammer and Kerrang and extensive radio plays include Bruce Dickinson's Friday Rock Show on the Beeb. They have also played the Hammerfest and are slated to play Hard Rock Hell Ibiza. I caught up with band member Sick-Boy Sims to find out more. The guys met at a gig back in 2007 and had already cut a demo and signed to Rising Records by early 2008. The band are basically four metalheads from the UK with a huge passion for music. 'We have seen the hard side of life, so writing songs that excite the listener so they can relate to the subject matter is very important to us. We are perfectionists and occasionally cross swords over songs,' explains Sims. The new album is basically a rollercoaster ride of power, energy and aggression. 'We've tried to make the album interesting to the listener by writing songs that weren't a blur from start to finish. We've tried to show what versatile song writers we are.'

And with topics like war, politics, sex, drugs, betrayal, endeavour and religion, the band have proven that they can write and touch home ground on topics that effect everyday life.

'The album was recorded at Rising Records Red house farm studios in Ipswich in October 2008. The album was produced by the label owner Mark Daghorn. Mark is a pioneer in the industry and basically gives bands the opportunity to see if they have the metal to stand up to the plate', adds Sims.

Because of the bands wide range of metal genres that they cover they tend to attract a healthy metal audience. 'We tend to appeal to a lot of different people with various tastes. We always try to involve the audience in what we're doing up on stage. The way we see it is if people pay to see a show, then we give them a show,' he smiles.

Next Huron are currently halfway through recording their second album. 'We have grown as musicians, we know the pitfalls and what's expected of us. We have already played the Hellfire festival at the Birmingham NEC here in the UK with Saxon and Cky, also the Hammerfest with Devil Driver and Iced Earth. At the moment we are not signed to a label, but we will continue to promote the band until the right agent/manager and record company are found to put our next album out.' Check Huron out at [www.myspace.com/huronuk](http://www.myspace.com/huronuk)



BIG MAMA SCANDAL

BIG MAMA SCANDAL is one of the most famous rock bands in Bulgaria. The band started in 1991 with attention on Bulgarian National Television, the press and the radio stations. A lot of successful TV shows and participations in radio charts followed as well as winning various awards. The band return with their new CD 'By You' which has been described by the magazines as catchy melodic rock meets pop rock – think Extreme and Firehouse through to Green Day. I caught up with the band's singer Ivo Gotchev to find out more.

When Ivo was 10 years old he saw the Beatles movie 'Help' and made the decision to play guitar. He then learned to play the oboe, contrabass and piano. At 16 he started his own school band before eventually merging into Big Mama Scandal in 1991. The band started as a glam rock band and gained lots of TV attention. They started to play big concerts all over Bulgaria and won numerous awards. 'We had a wonderful experience recording those fourteen new songs,' says Ivo. 'It is a journey to those things that happened to me over the last year of writing it to recording and playing live at concerts. We made this CD for worldwide listening and it is a face of modern rock of 2009 without forgetting our roots in melodic rock.'

The new album was recorded at Fresh Records Studio in Sofia. 'We decided to produce the album ourselves. Then BG Music Company signed a contract as a publisher. We have been in the business from a eighteen years and it was free flow of imagination, very pure and happy feeling to make your own ideas about the sound,' he explains.

I ask Ivo about the band's live situation, 'Our shows are very well accepted at very different sized venues, because we play at big shows, concerts and also small clubs, acoustic, where people are invited for a 'party' with our music and mostly people are having a great time, singing and dancing with us as we rock out.'

The band plan to make a promotional concert in Sofia for journalists and the media in the big towns in their country. 'We would like for people to get into the new songs. And maybe we will record that concert in Sofia for CD and DVD. We are about to make a video of one of the songs, 'I'll Take You' or 'By You'. The radio stations seem to like 'Another', which has already charted over here. After all that I'm ready with one new song and the dice will keep rolling with material for a brand new album.'

Look the band up at [www.myspace.com/bigmamascandalband](http://www.myspace.com/bigmamascandalband) / [www.bigmamascandal.com](http://www.bigmamascandal.com)

From Holland we find melodic prog rock band CHINAWHITE making waves with their new CD 'Challenges' and already the reviews have been positive for the band, with many likening the music to Uriah Heep, Axe, Deep Purple, Rush and Saga,



especially on songs like the melodic keyboard driven 'Better Than You' and the excellent 'My Venus Rising' showing vintage Uriah Heep vibes.

I caught up with Peter Cox, the band's guitar player. Peter was fourteen when he first got handed the guitar by his father. He eventually discovered a passion for song writing which he shared with friends. Whilst many readers have not heard of the band, the Dutch act has been around for over twenty years. The current band consists of Peter Cox (guitars and vocals), Don Feltges (lead vocals), Sander Stappers (bass), Rolf Vossen (keyboards) and Hans in't Zandt (drums and vocals). Readers may know Hans for his work with Vengeance, Mad Max, Steve Fister, Cooper Inc. and Parris. The core member of the band founded it back in 1987 and so far they have released three well received cassette demos, one CD EP in 1997 called 'A Dragon's Birth' and their first full length album 'Breathe Fire' in 2000. They also released a download only album for which 'you get fifteen songs for less than five Euros,' says Peter. Furthermore, Chinawhite have played over 150 shows throughout The Netherlands, Belgium and Germany. Their new CD is called 'Challenges and it's been a bumpy ride. The subjects are mostly inspired by things that happened in our lives - the good, the bad and the ugly. I think a lot of people will be able to relate to that. Musically I think we set the bar a lot higher. Style wise it is a cross between the two previous albums, but we feel we have expanded. The years of work really shine through. So we feel it is more mature, more melodic, more metal and more symphonic altogether, and there are eleven songs all together on the album.'

The album was recorded at the bands home studio called 'Down the Road' and Peter produced, recorded, mixed and mastered the album himself with Rolf adding his own mastery here and there. 'I learned a lot from the process', says Peter. 'The next one will in some aspects be a lot easier. Having your own studio is a luxury and a danger. It is a lot easier to redo parts if you feel you can make more of it, or try different arrangements. But you have to keep an eye on the calendar and try to finish at some point.'

As already mentioned, the band is no stranger to performing live. 'We are a fairly experienced crew and have a lot of fun on stage. That is also how we are perceived. Creating songs is a fun thing to do. But when you're playing live, and get the crowd going, it is a special feeling. Nothing beats people singing and moving along to your songs. And live we are able to play with the arrangements. I love to improvise in my soloing, and a stage is a great place to do that,' he smiles. Next the guys are looking into performing more prolific gigs and Peter is already thinking about the next record. 'Maybe it is time to record some old favorites. In our back catalogue there are numerous songs we have played live, but never recorded. But there are also already several new song ideas,' he concludes.

In the meantime check Chinawhite out at [www.chinawhite.nl](http://www.chinawhite.nl) or [www.myspace.com/chinawhite](http://www.myspace.com/chinawhite) or write to [chinawhite@rockcompany.nl](mailto:chinawhite@rockcompany.nl).



If funk, rock, blues and southern rock is your bag then check out the superb new CD 'Luxury Muscle' from Florida's home-grown boogie boys THE CRAWDADDY. The album shows some brilliant slabs of funky rock such as 'Male Side', 'Stone Free', 'A Real Mother For Ya' as well as numerous covers songs including ZZ Top and Bad Company. I caught up with Richard 'The Crawdaddy' Dance, who was

once told by one Albert Collins 'Mr. Crawdaddy, I dig your style'. Born and raised in the Deep South, Richard was early on influenced by gospel and soul music which he heard everywhere. Like many other young white kids, Richard was automatically drawn to it. 'I was singing in a church choir by age nine or ten, plunking on the guitar by age twelve, playing in Mardi Gras parades by age sixteen, nightclubs and the college circuit by age eighteen,' he remembers. Other than the gospel/soul influence and some important guitarists, Richard's other big inspiration was living in New Orleans back in the '70s and checking out bands like The Meters, Dr. John, and The Neville Brothers. 'I was just a young college kid but got to know The Meters. They played in a bar where I worked and were always nice to me. Listening to them, I learned how to play clean, leave lots of empty space, and lay down a cold-blooded groove. The Meters hit big later on when the Rolling Stones ask them to do a world tour with them 80's,' he smiles.

For many years Richard toured with a variety of bands. The Crawdaddy sound is a funk-rock-blues-soul hybrid. Richard has played all over the world and opened shows for people like BB King, Tina Turner, and The Fifth Dimension. His typical line-up is guitar, Hammond B3, bass and drums, with the occasional female front singer or horns. Right now he is focusing on creating CD's under The Crawdaddy moniker, a nickname that he earned from a huge crawfish/music festival he threw every year for twelve years. 'My goal at this stage in the game is not to compete with young touring bands on the rise,' he says. 'I would like to serve more educational role, helping keep American Roots Music alive. I have been playing since the 1960's and evolved a cool hybrid of roots music that I call 'black & white groove rock.' It borrows rhythmically from James Brown, The Meters, Herbie Hancock and Booker T & The MG's. Guitar influences are Johnny Guitar Watson, Albert King, Albert Collins, Duane Allman, and Jeff Beck. Vocal influences would be Ray Charles, Gregg Allman, and Delbert McClinton', he says. Richard plays most of the instruments himself with a few guest artists, many of them world-class players. 'For example, I just finished a cover of the 1969 Allman Brothers tune 'Dreams' which will be on CD number three, with two great drummers handling the percussion: Greg Warner who played with The Temptations, Dionne Warwick and on the huge hit TV show Solid Gold back in the 80's; and Dan Tomlinson who toured with Lyle Lovett and Acoustic Alchemy. I needed good percussionists for this double-drummer tune. Greg and Dan swang it perfectly.'

'Luxury Muscle' is a follow-up to Richard's first CD called 'Resurrected'. Both albums are collections of American Roots originals and covers, paying tribute to Southern soul and funky blues-rock music, which Richard believes are true art forms. 'There are several important cities where this sound emerged in the mid-60's to early 70's: New Orleans, Memphis, Austin, Muscle Shoals (Alabama) and Augusta (Georgia). I grew up in the middle of all that. Also, British outfits like Free, Humble Pie, and Led Zeppelin were a very important influence, stripping away all ornamentation and laying it down thick and clean.'

The record was recorded at McDowell Studios in Phoenix, Arizona, Richard took care of the production and he has done a mighty fine job and got the vibe down. Dave Shirk at Sonorous did the mastering. Richard also created a music video for each CD, to give folks a visual image since he is not touring right now. 'I work with a talented young filmmaker, Derrick Reed. There are also some great shots of my cars in those videos! Folks can see the both on YouTube, just search for 'Answer to the Laundromat Blues' and 'What the Hell is This?'

When The Crawdaddy performs live, its high energy! It's funky and it swings. 'The place usually erupts in sweet pandemonium. You can't help but bump, grind and groove when The Crawdaddy shows up,' he smiles. I ask Richard to share a bit about what he has learned from performing. 'No matter what music you play, there are some basics to remember:

1. Less is more. Slow down. Only speed-rip on your axe every once in awhile for effect. Constant shredding rapid scales get boring real quick. All the girls already know you have a dick.
2. Phrase all instruments like a human voice, with pauses for breathing. Dynamics rule.
3. All music must swing. A hard rock example is Malcolm Young, the rhythm guitarist in AC/DC. Listen closely to him. That cat swings like a motherfucker and holds the whole band together.
4. Both live and in the studio, don't pile up too many instruments in the same frequencies. Vocals, Guitars and keyboards can often step on each other's toes. Spread 'em out in the hertz range! Leave lots of silence. You couldn't see the letters on this page if there was no white space behind it.
5. Rhythmically, surprise and syncopation are definitely king. Way back in the early 1900's, the first marching bands in New Orleans already understood this. An example is hitting hard on what was called

the "Big 4" back then. Now it's called "4 and". Just search YouTube for "Second Line Beats".

6. On guitar, use meat on the strings (fingers instead of a pick) for unusual tones and harmonics. For example, listen to my sparse solo on 'What The Hell Is This?' at about 2:20 on the Luxury Muscle CD, and the same style guitar voice all through the instrumental 'Bridge Out' on the Resurrected CD. These demonstrate the meat-on-the-strings idea, as well as points 1. and 2. above.

Currently The Crawdaddy is about ten songs into completing the next CD which will again continue the current vibe. 'My old buddy Chuck Hall, a blistering Texas blues-rock guitarist who's been touring Sweden for fifteen years, and now head of Fender Product Development. Several other players and singers will guest appear, friends who have been on stage with everyone from Stevie Nicks and Count Basie to Muddy Waters and Tower of Power.'

After that Richard wants to write more groove orientated instrumentals. 'Music that works well for TV and film soundtracks, a very complex and competitive industry I am now learning about. But where there is competition, there is also opportunity. The main thing is to play exactly what you love and get really good at it. Then doors of some kind will start opening. I love what I play, and that energy transfers to the listeners and dancers. The Crawdaddy a potent cocktail that puts ants in your pants'. Check The Crawdaddy out at [www.cdbaby.com/cd/crawdaddy](http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/crawdaddy) and [www.mycrawdaddy.com](http://www.mycrawdaddy.com)



Out now on the Perris Records label is the stunning new CD from Stockholm's DYNASTY called 'Bring The Thunder'. The CD has been well received with interviews in magazines and webzines such as Powerplay and Rock Realms with critics citing the band as 'a breath of fresh air' with 'songs that will knock you off your feet', not to mention tours with the likes of The Poodles. The band started a few years ago and they were all very focused where they wanted to go. 'We decided to record an album and to get it released, and so we did,' says bass player Joey Foxx. 'Our dedication and hard work was what got us into it all. We are a hard-hitting melodic metal band that has been around for almost two years now. We are often compared to bands like Skid Row, Whitesnake and TNT. The band consists of extremely talented musicians, and I am very proud to be part of it,' he smiles. 'Bring The Thunder' is the band's first album, and it was released last year via Perris Records. 'The album is the result of endless hours rehearsing and writing songs. We're very proud of ourselves for being able to create such a killer album in such a short time,' adds Joey. BTT was recorded at the famous Polar Studios in Stockholm. Producing the album was none other than one Chris Lane! The band has also been playing everywhere they can and their shows go down a storm. 'We are often told that our live shows are very energetic, and it seems like people really enjoy the fact that we love being on stage. We always give everything we've got, and a little more!'

Next up Dynazty the band are looking into the possibilities of doing a short UK this year, so keep your eyes open on tour dates folks and check the band out at [www.myspace.com/dynaztyband](http://www.myspace.com/dynaztyband) / [www.dynazty.com](http://www.dynazty.com)

Swedish newcomers EMBERSTORM have just released their fantastic new album called 'Memories Of Time'. Emberstorm started when Peter first heard

the song 'Fear Of The Dark' back in 1998. 'The pure energy of rock made me start listening to bands like Metallica, Hammerfall, and Helloween,' says Peter. Three years later Peter took his first chords on the guitar and was stuck learning tabs from these bands, continuing with video practice lessons by Yngwie and Romeo. Peter has been influenced by rock music ever since and has changed his tastes from death metal into classic rock and AOR. The band was formed in 2006, 'to present an alternative edge to the modern metal scene towards a more classic rock approach, without losing the fresh and heavy sound quality from today. The band consists of only two members: Peter Stromberg as composer and producer, and Peter Selin on vocals,' says Peter.

The new album is a mixture of old classic guitar tunes and vocals with heavier more progressive elements. 'It would be hard to justify too many influences as people who have heard the album refer us to a wide range of bands, all the way from M.S.G. and Whitesnake to Symphony X.'

Recorded at Peter's home studio the album has a superb sound and recently had a whopping 9/10 score in the last issue of Powerplay Magazine, whilst Classic Rock Society magazine said "'Pete Stromberg, the main man behind this project, has a good ear for melodies and incorporates them here into a mixture of eighties hard rock and modern prog metal.'" He wrote all the music and plays guitar, bass and keyboards. The lyrics come from drummer Kim Soderberg and Peter Selin contributed the vocals on this solid debut release. Next the band starts writing songs for the next album. 'We have a new studio and new equipment and a new fresh energy has been obtained as well as a strict sound target towards an even more classical rock sound. We intend to make our new album more focused on the melodies and vocals.'

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If you enjoy hard hitting power metal like Symphony X with the power vocals of Ian Parry, then check out the new CD 'A New Identity' from EDGEND which has just been released through Nightmare Records. I caught up with guitarist Sharon Halachami, bassist Ben Metal and vocalist Rami Salmon to find out more about this cracking band. Sharon got inspired with music after hearing and admiring amazing musicians and bands. 'It was the kind of passion that not only influenced us as young musicians, but moulded us slowly to what we are today. I speak for most of us when I say we've all experienced and experimented in various styles with various musicians and genres, what makes each individual contribution valuable to our music. Gradually a lot of hard work and dedication took us to a more professional level,' says Sharon. Ben takes up the conversation, 'I must admit that the band who drove me into the world of music was Dream Theater; they made me want to play like 'crazy'. I was practicing alone for several years till Edgend called me to join and naturally it became my main interest,' he says. 'Even though we all have day jobs keeping us on regular course, the passion for music and what it brought is inevitable,' says Rami.

Edgend began started in 2005 as a heavy power metal band with a neo classical and symphonic composing. 'The name 'Edgend' is a combination between the words Edge End meaning the sharpest point of the blade. At the end of 2006 we've recorded a demo titled 'Attached by Insanity' with our former vocalist that left a year later. In 2008 we've started working on the 'A New Identity' album that made its way out on 2009 by Nightmare Records, which supports us all along. From 2006 we never stopped playing live hopping we never will,' says Sharon. 'We represent the progressive side of the growing metal scene here in Israel for several years now. We are all influenced by various music styles starting from classic music and jazz to hardcore metal,' add Ben. This new CD is a full length album of eleven killer tracks. 'The entire album which holds a special meaning. For us, this album reflects the long journey we took several years ago without knowing if it will get any recognition. Even the amazing response we get from many listeners around the world came as a surprise to us. From the people who worked on the

sound and art to promotion, everything just started right somehow and we couldn't ask for more,' smiles Sharon. The CD was produced by Kevin Codfert who was also featured in one of the tracks. Kevin is well known for his work with his band Adagio as a keyboard/piano player and producer/sound engineer. 'Now that we have some recognition, along with the desire to play live everywhere, it gave us the strength to work on our second album so we do hope to finish it soon and record it before the end of 2010,' concludes Rami. Check them out at [www.myspace.com/edgendband](http://www.myspace.com/edgendband)

Now onto another new name in AOR and melodic rock circles in the shape of Tennessee's artist KENNI DENILE who has been getting heavy airplay here in the UK from the likes of ARFM and Phoenix Radio. Kenni has always loved music, but what interested him the most about being in band was the passion he felt after hearing the classic Mötley Crüe album 'Shout at the Devil'. Kenni is a multi-talented solo artist and has played in bands for years before finally moving to Nashville to see where the scene could lead him. He wound up writing his new record called 'Dreamer' by himself and decided to go forward as a solo artist. 'I did work with some great studio musicians though. Mike P is on guitar, bass and some keys. He is awesome! My father, Bobby Keys plays Sax on 'Hey You' and Steve LaCross is on drums. I should mention that my son also contributed his talent on the Djembe drum on 'Indigo'. Once I start to get some traction, I will put a band together and start to hit it from there. The nice thing about living here in Nashville, is that there is no shortage of great talent,' explains Kenni.

The new record 'Dreamer' is a seven track EP which Kenni describes it as Retro-Futurist Album Oriented Rock! 'Van Halen meets Journey. Lyric driven songs with Big Chorus and Smokin' leads. If this description interests you, I think you will like my music,' he says with a smile. The recording of the EP in Nashville was a huge learning experience for Kenni. 'Going from being in bands to now calling all the shots was pretty enlightening. My wife, Sabrina and I produced the album ourselves and she contributed some of the writing as well. George Tutko mixed the record and helped us get it to where it is now and I am so happy with the way it has come out.' For now Kenni is in the process of creating opportunities for big shows and a big platform to build his career from. 'I really want to bring this music to as many people as I can. I would also really like to be able to get back into the studio, with a big budget this time and record a full length record. The main critique that I've had about my record 'Dreamer' is that there aren't enough songs.' Check Kenni out at <http://kennidenile.com> / [www.myspace.com/kennidenile](http://www.myspace.com/kennidenile)

Keyboard player Juan Pablo Calvo is the man behind exciting new progressive rock band TIME'S FORGOTTEN who hail from Costa Rica and have gained high interest from the media and are currently in talks for a domestic release for their super new CD 'Dandelion'. Juan started playing classical piano at the age of eight because his mom wanted him to learn the instrument, and he continued to study for the next three years before eventually learning to play guitar later on in high school, 'That's where I really took interest in music and haven't stopped ever since,' says Juan. Time's Forgotten started as Juan's project back in 2004. His idea of just experimenting with trip hop and ambient music fused with rock and

metal. 'I wrote all the music for the first album but then as the project evolved and other musicians got involved it became clear that Time's Forgotten should be a band, not only a one album project.' By the time their first album came out the band were invited to play at the Baja Prog festival in Mexicali, Mexico alongside bands like Tony Levin, Focus, Indukti, Rudess-Morgenstein project; 'That was a major breakout for us and that same year we opened a show for the Brazilian band Angra.' The new album is called 'Dandelion' and is a more extreme album than the debut. 'It has heavier parts but also softer ones, and we changed the trip-hop element for world music this time because the subject of the record is life, and that is something I've always associated with world music, specially Celtic music. It's definitely a concept album but every song has its independence so you can listen to each of them and still get the message,' he explains. 'Dandelion' was recorded at Juan's own studio, Bushido Audio Productions in Costa Rica and he also recorded and mixed it. 'Production was done this time by me and one of the guitar players, Ari Lotringer.' The bands live shows are starting to gain a healthy following. 'We have a very loyal fan base here and we always try to give them a very good show, mostly in theatres where you can actually enjoy the light show, projections and sound. We recently opened our Costa Rican tour by playing in the most important theatre in the country, that was very nice for the fans and for us of course.' I ask Juan how the scene is in his home country. 'Well, since Costa Rica is a very small country so opportunities here to make a living out of a band are very small so we're trying to put most our efforts on promoting our material abroad. On the other hand we have more shows on the national tour and there are plans to shoot a DVD next year,' he concludes. Check the band out [www.myspace.com/timesforgottenband](http://www.myspace.com/timesforgottenband) and <http://timesforgottencr.com/dandelion/>

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SHOUSE

Mike Shouse is a guitarist from Kentucky and has released this rather good new CD called 'Alone In The Sun' under the moniker of SHOUSE. The self-financed CD features eleven tracks showcasing Mike's tremendous style. Track one is called 'Bionic' and borrows its theme from The Six Million Dollar Man, it's a fast and furious affair. 'Man Of Constant Sorrow' features vocals and is a bubbly guitar-driven rocker, reminiscent of L.A. Guns crossed with Jerry Cantrell. 'The Arabian' is another guitar work out and I hear a lot of Satriani effects on this track, especially with the slight Eastern influences - a very good instrumental. 'Choices' is a slower track, more melodic sounding and has a Y&T meets Satch vibe. Next up is the neo-classical/melodic title track 'Alone In The Sun' which is a temperamental and memorable track. I love the ambience of the song and the way the entire vibe builds quite quickly, the only let down is the drum machine clatter which makes it a little tingly sounding, but a good solid track, possibly inspired by Joey Tafolla and Michael Lee Firkins. 'Shock And Awe' is more of a fun rocker, a really cool vibe on this track clearly inspired by Satriani's 'Surfing With The Alien' crossed with Mattias la Eklund from Freak Kitchen. 'You Can Fly' is a rock-solid jam number, very melodic and interesting while 'Dead In Memphis' lets the side down being a little off-putting and not going with the flow of the other material, seeming to slog along more than go for the gullet and in for the kill.

'Don't Remember Me' is the second vocal led track, the vocals here are more raspy. Again is pretty catchy and as the song builds, it has a vintage edge laced against a modern feel - without doubt the best of the vocal tracks. Last up is 'For Alex', a charismatic balladic ditty oozing heaps of melody. For an independent release the production is a little abrasive. I feel it would be interesting to hear a jam-packed vocal led album than multi-instrumentals because lyrically, the vocal led songs have potential. Check Mike's music out at [www.myspace.com/aloneinthesun](http://www.myspace.com/aloneinthesun)



WORLDS APART

Thirteen years later and San Jose's WORLD'S APART return to the scene with their superb fourth offering called 'Clean Slate' which is out now via Perris Records. I totally loved the bands self-titled 1993 debut and their 1997 release 'All For One' and had given hope of ever hearing from this band again. Those two records were fantastic offering huge slabs of melodic rock in the styles of Bon Jovi, Trixter and Firehouse, and 'Clean Slate' continues the vibe. I chatted with the bands vocalist Jay Davids. Jay became involved with music very early in life. 'At my school when I was in first grade I saw some older kids dress up and lip sync to a Kiss song. I was totally blown away so I - well, my parents - went out and bought me a guitar. My first experience on stage was when I performed 'Open Arms' by Journey at a talent show, and from then on I was hooked. I played bass in a band after high school and when we had no luck finding a singer I took over lead vocals and have been singing ever since,' he smiles. Worlds Apart has been around for many years with different members, but this line-up has been together the longest and by far the most successful for Jay. 'Early on the other guys had been together building their following in the San Francisco Bay Area and were looking to replace their original singer when their manager at the time found me. My old band and I were opening up for Worlds Apart at one of their shows. I witnessed their energy, look, and sound, and it was a very easy decision to accept the position to be their new lead vocalist.

Now four albums later and too many shows to count, I am still proud to front Worlds Apart. We have since gone on to not only headline major venues, but also support numerous artists such as Dokken, Firehouse, Extreme, Alice in Chains, Cinderella, Night Ranger etc.'

'Clean Slate' has taken the band back to their roots of melodic hard rock, and with the return of the groups original guitarist Rich Cedillo, Jay and the boys felt they were able to once again capture lightning in a bottle. 'It was great to get back into the studio with the guys and put something together that we all felt proud of. Our new album 'Clean Slate' is the closest thing to our live show that we felt we truly captured in the studio. Most of the songs musically and lyrically have that fun in your face, good time attitude. However, while in the studio we were inspired to write the song 'The Light', a slower tempo and more modern song that is a reflection of where some of us are today. With at times our lives being so crazy and sometimes out of control, as I'm sure many people can relate, 'The Light' was a place we were drawn both spiritually and emotionally. 'Clean Slate' has been a long time in the making, but of all our albums I think this one represents Worlds Apart at our best, and well worth the wait,' he says with pride. The Album was recorded at bassist Jas's studio in San Jose. Jas both produced and engineered the entire album, 'and he did an amazing job! We had our good friend Johnny Lima mix the record and Anthony Fox did the mastering in Los Angeles. Johnny Lima is a successful solo artist/producer and Anthony Fox has worked with Foreigner, Buck Cherry, Ace Frehley etc. We actually did the pre-production prior to my move to Los Angeles some 6 hours away. I had to drive up 6 hours each way on the weekends to do my vocals and drive right back after I was done. Pretty tough schedule but I am extremely happy with how well it all turned out. I have since moved back to be near the band so the next album should put fewer miles on my car.'

Over the years Jay has realized that playing their songs live is what he loves to do the most. 'Practicing, recording is all part of the business and essential, but what we as musicians and the fans of our music really want, is a great live show. Worlds Apart has always been known as a well-rehearsed band both with solid musicians and strong live vocals. We have always felt that anyone who takes the time to come out to a Worlds Apart show deserves to have a great evening of entertainment. We really enjoy interacting with the audience as if we were all part a big party. Whether you are a long time fan of Worlds Apart or a person who is seeing us for the first time, we will not disappoint.'

The band is currently working on two videos to compliment the new CD for the songs 'The Light' and 'Heaven Sent'. 'Both Jas and our drummer Gary Silva are directing and Jas will do the final editing. Not sure which will be released first, but both will be worth the wait. Our record label Perris Records and President Tom Mathers are doing an amazing job of promoting the record and I'm sure they will do even more when the videos are released. Perris Records has been with us since the beginning and they are extremely excited about our new album so there are lots in store for Worlds Apart in 2010. I am hoping to talk the guys into doing a live DVD to show what we are all about on stage. In the meantime, everyone go out and buy the new Worlds Apart album 'Clean Slate' I promise you will not be disappointed.' If you have not yet heard World's Apart, then please do so, check them out at [www.myspace.com/therockbandworldsapart](http://www.myspace.com/therockbandworldsapart)



NIL DURDEN

NIL DURDEN is a solo artist out of Italy and is influenced by a lot of classic rock singers and modern rock bands, such as David Coverdale, John Corabi, Robert Plant and Chris Cornell and it shows in this 4 track debut EP. The production sound is full and professional and I won't be surprised if we see Nil landing a recording contact soon. The first song 'Findaway' is completely brilliant, a huge rock fair coming at you like The Cult, Led Zep and Aerosmith. Vocally and musically the track is spot on. Next up is 'Just To Kiss You Goodnight', a more subtle acoustic-based song with a country twist, which reminds me

of Chris Cornell and its slight retro style has a mellow Guns N' Roses feel - awesome song. 'Nothing Right Lately' is another fabulous track that blends a little grunge a la Pearl Jam with classic rock in the vein of Led Zep and Ted Nugent, a moody upbeat catchy number with great playing and vibe. Last track is 'Dreams And Dimes' which is again retro and laid back, summery feeling and reminding me of Bob Seger jamming with Bret Michaels (vocally). So all in all we get two upbeat rockers and two laid back ditty's making for a superb diverse EP that leaves you wanting the full album that will hopefully be due soon. Nil Durden is a solo artist to keep your eyes on, superb songs, superb quality, what more do you want? [www.myspace.com/nildurden](http://www.myspace.com/nildurden)



RAGE AND BEYOND

RAGE AND BEYOND are a super cool new outfit with Ed Terry and Karl Cochran (Joe Lynn Turner etc) and the lads have co-produced this CD with one Kevin Shirley (Journey, Aerosmith etc). Had 'Corporate Nation' been released in the 80's then this (as the story goes) would have been a massive selling album. The band show influences towards Extreme, Winger, TNT, Lynch Mob, and in Ed Terry they have one of the finest vocalists out there in the field today, there is nothing that this fella can't vocally handle and he has a voice that is a mix of Tony Harnell, Oni Logan and Gary Cherone. Track after track after track: wham, wham, wham ... this album has it all and more. Joining the fellas is drummer Bobby Marks (toured with Dokken in 2008) and Paul Di Leo on bass (some of you may recall that Paul was with the band Voodland who released an excellent CD a few years back).

'Proposition' nods its crusty edge towards Extreme and Winger. 'Not Gonna Try' has a varied style, Satriani influenced guitar licks coupled with a Freak Kitchen meets Steve Vai circa 'Sex And Religion' vibe. Track 3, 'Nice And Easy' flows with Gary Cherone style vocal rapping. Catchy and melodic, Extreme meets Lynch Mob. Next comes one of the album's best songs called 'Desire' which flows with balladic guitars and AOR influences. Then keyboard comes into the song as it explodes into a superb number reminding me of me W.E.T., with high power vocals a la Jeff Scott Soto crossed with Tony Harnell. 'Say No More' is melodic, technical and smooth and reminds me of Extreme. 'No Resolution' is another fabulous number reminiscent of the Vinnie Vincent Invasion number 'Love Cries' with hints of Lynch Mob and Winger, coupled with Ed Van Halen style guitar licks; it's huge and melodic - superb, superb, superb. 'Media Song' could have been on Extreme's 'Waiting For The Punchline', a moody darker track with hints of Winger circa 'Pull', solid driving rocker with killer guitar work and huge thundering drum kicks.

'Corporate Nation' once again goes for that Freak Kitchen meets Alice In Chains vibe, again killer axe work and is a slightly more retro track with a King's X feel. 'Between The Lines' shows an Aerosmith vibe, cool vocal phrasing and a good song for radio. The guitar heavy 'What's Your Game' goes back to the Extreme school of hard rock. I love the feel of this song and the vocals. Damn, Ed Terry is one hell of a singer and a star in the making. Shredding it up next with 'Cut My Ties' a fuzzy stomping rocker, and for some reason this one reminds me of Ozzy. Also impressive is the excellent 'Tryin' To Be', which again this oozes high power Aerosmith, and again Ed Terry is massive and really carries the song. 'Down To Business' is where all the above influences melt into one, another solid vibrant track, very melodic and hard to criticise.

Overall Rage And Beyond have it all, and you cannot fail to be impressed with this record - it's massive and totally amazes me why labels in the melodic hard rock scene are not all over this album and offering deals, especially given the fact that Kevin Shirley's name should help secure a lot of additional sales. Do yourselves a favour, purchase this record NOW!

[www.rageandbeyond.com](http://www.rageandbeyond.com) or visit [www.myspace.com/rageandbeyondmusic](http://www.myspace.com/rageandbeyondmusic)

From New Jersey comes rising star CC COLETTI with her superb new CD called 'Woodstock Lane'. It's a varied, well performed and produced album that is



CC COLETTI

energetic fun and highly entertaining and has that extra spark and gift where each song has something different to offer and the mix of the album's songs and music takes on country, southern, and melodic hard rock flavours with a touch of blues. It all works well - very well in fact. Over the years CC also become the vocalist for MEAT LOAF's Neverland Express Band, and what is interesting is Meat's daughter Pearl has a new album out that's almost similar in style, however CC's album leaves Pearl's album dead in the water, as 'Woodstock Lane' feels more natural and original.

'Fast Lane Addiction' is a fun opening hard melodic rocker, cool guitar edge courtesy of Anthony Krizan from The Spin Doctors. 'Trouble With Me' gets the record grooving and is a fabulous song, very hooky and upbeat and reminding me of Blackstone Cherry and Pat Benatar thanks to its Southern and melodic influences. The mellow 'Woodstock Lane' is built around gentle country inspired melodies and keyboards, it eventually builds into a dreamy melodic number and is a lovely song, perfect for driving to. 'Quit You' has a Saraya vibe and builds well with that extra punch and is again very catchy - this track also reached the top on the Billboard Blues chart.. Next up is a cover of Janis Joplin's 'Mercedes Benz' and once again CC Coletti goes for that Southern and melodic vibe to stomp your boots to, only this one has a slight gospel feel and is a very good catchy cover song with again CC showing how great her voice is. Next we have a vintage rocker in the form of the catchy 'If The Sun Don't Shine' - a funky, retro tune with nice guitar vibe, live this track probably smokes and has strong Black Crowes, Kansas and Grace Slick influences - one of my favourite tracks.

Next up is the swagger of 'Little Piece Of You'; this one makes me think of Aerosmith and The Black Crowes, nice Hammond keys and brassy vibe to the song. 'Color Of You' is a deep slow burner coming over like early Heart with a hint of Sheryl Crow. This is a special sexy and seductive song and I love the way it builds - breathtaking. It's back in the southern blues groove with the catchy 'Heaven Is In Your Mind', whilst 'Peace In My Soul' throws itself back into vintage hard rock territory and is quite heavy and raspy, another song in the old school Aerosmith style with a little Hendrix thrown in. 'Seven Deadly Sins' shows a more husky moody vocal style, melodic and loose this is another good song, this time reminding me of the band Stealin' Horses. 'You Were My Angel' ends the album and is the longest cut at over seven minutes and is just mind blowing; it's a ballad style song with fabulous lyrics and gorgeous vocals from CC, a smooth swaying number with lots of musical twists and turns... a huge, huge song.

Overall CC Coletti has delivered a fine and highly entertaining record, so do yourself a favour and check this out. Well worth investigating. Check out [www.myspace.com/cccoletti](http://www.myspace.com/cccoletti) or <http://ccsings.cc/>

### NICKY BALDRIAN'S PLAYLIST

1. China  
*Light Up The Dark*
2. Avantasia  
*Angel Of Babylon/The Wicked Symphony*
3. Ratt  
*Infestation*
4. Auras  
*New Generation*
5. Treat  
*Coup De Grace*
6. Sevendust  
*Cold Day Memory*
7. Story Of The Year  
*The Constant*
8. HIM  
*Screamworks: Love In Theory And Practice*
9. N.O.W.  
*Force Of Nature*
10. Scorpions  
*Sting In The Tail*

# THE MELODIC HARD ROCK LABELS

by Paul Jerome Smith

In this installment of our long-running series that seeks to explore the background to and activity of labels that provide much of the material for our listening pleasure, I am pleased to present to you AVENUE OF ALLIES MUSIC, one of the newer labels on the scene. As previously, the initial ten questions are exactly the same ones and follow the same sequence. My interviewee this time is label boss, Gregor Klee.



**Hello Greg. Can you tell me when the label began, and how and why was it formed?**

The basic idea for the foundation of the label goes back to 2005. Back then I exchanged some thoughts with my good friend Robert Pancur of the German mail order company Target Records. We talked about labels, distribution companies, re-issues of out-of-print CDs and albums that are only available on vinyl. And we also discussed the idea of founding a record label, because we had already worked together on some CD releases for Target, like the 'Make The Monkey Dance' album of former UFO / Heavy Metal Kids vocalist and keyboarder Danny Peyronel.

In the following years we contacted several artists, to see if they were interested in a co-operation with a new Rock label. And since the response was good, we continued to look for the best way to bring a record company to life. In the spring of 2007 we visited Kurt Vereecke in Belgium to talk about his Frozen Rain project. He was one of the artists we were in contact with and Kurt shared our vision of the label and our enthusiasm for AOR and Melodic Rock, so the three of us thought that it would be a great thing to have Frozen Rain as the first release on the now called Avenue Of Allies label. Soon after we made a gentleman's agreement to release 'Frozen Rain' as album no. 1 on the new label.

In the following months the preparations were made to place the label on the market and because Robert was already pretty much occupied with his mail order company, it was my turn to forge ahead with what we had begun. Almost exactly one year after the first trip to Belgium I paid Kurt another visit to present him the finished 'Frozen Rain' CDs...

**How would you describe the genres of music that you have issued on the label?**

So far there have been AOR, Melodic Rock, Hard Rock, Classic Rock and West Coast artists. But I'm open to any other kind of Rock that is somehow connected to these musical genres.

A very cool thing for me personally would be to put out an "old fashioned" Hi-Tech AOR album, like they did them back in the 80s or a Southern Rock or even a Country Rock album. And I can pretty well imagine having great Melodic Metal, Glam Rock or Progressive Metal bands on the labels roster as well.

**How many people are employed by (or involved in) the label?**

At the moment, Paul, there are no permanently employed people working for Avenue Of Allies except for me. However there are outside contributors like artwork and web designers, sound engineers, people involved in promotion, a tax accountant, just to name a few. This way I can pick the people I work with on a project individually and it works pretty well for the most part.

**By the end of December 2009, how many albums had the label released?**

Exactly, eight...

**Please select five releases on the label of which you are especially pleased, and briefly discuss your choices.**

As just mentioned, Avenue Of Allies had only eight albums out by the end of 2009 with album number 9, 10 and 11 following in February and March 2010. So I could almost name them all, because they are all a piece of the puzzle that Avenue Of Allies is today. The puzzle is not completed yet, but the label is on a good way and there will be some very promising albums to be released in 2010 and hopefully beyond.

Still I'd like to mention the 'Frozen Rain' album, because it was great and also helpful to have such an amazing AOR album as the first release on a brand new record label. The co-operation with Kurt

Vereecke also marked the begin of our friendship and I'm very much looking forward to the second Frozen Rain album, which is in the making as we speak. The rough versions of the first songs sound very impressive.

**Are there any albums that caused unforeseen problems, which given hindsight you might have handled differently?**

No not really and I cross my fingers that nothing serious will happen in this regard in the future. But then again it's only about two years since the label's start and I think only in a perfect world everything would go smoothly!

**How widely are your label's products distributed, and are you looking to extend the coverage?**

In Europe we have a pretty good network of distributors and most of the mail order companies that specialise in Rock, as well as most of the big online retailers around the world have our CDs in stock. Outside of Europe we have co-operations with distributors and some key dealers in the US and Japan. In addition all albums are worldwide available through Digital Distribution.

I'd certainly like to extend the list of territories in which the Avenue CDs are distributed by a local company, if reliable and trustworthy companies are interested in a co-operation.

**Please tell me about your release schedule for the next few months, Greg...**

May 2010 will see the release of three albums, the already much anticipated 'Shining Line' CD, a truly classic AOR diamond, featuring performances by Robin Beck, Harry Hess (Harem Scarem), Bob Harris (Axe, Edge Of Forever) Brian LaBlanc (Blanc Faces), Erik Martensson (Eclipse, W.E.T.), Michael Bormann (Rain, Charade, Jaded Heart), Michael Shotton (Von Groove), Michael Voss (Mad Max, Voices Of Rock, Casanova, Demon Drive), Mikael Erlandsson (Last Autumn's Dream, Salute), Sue Willetts (Dante Fox), Vinny Burns (Dare, Ten) and many more.

The second one is the international debut of the Brazilian Melodic Rocker Joey Summer. The album is called 'Written On The Horizon' and includes performances and songs by Fredrik Bergh and Göran Edman (both of Street Talk), Michael Larsson (Coldspell) and Michael Müller (Jaded Heart), with additional songs by Michael Bormann and Kee Marcello (ex-Europe).

The third one will take many Hard Rock fans by surprise. The band is called 'Skill In Veins' and they play a highly enjoyable blend of bands like Lynch Mob, Badlands, Little Caesar and Skid Row. It's the project of the young Italian guitar player Andrea Lanza, who is an amazing talent. The line-up is completed by Gabriele Gozzi (Markonee) on vocals, Nik Mazzucconi (Edge Of Forever, Ian Paice) on bass and Francesco Jovino (Edge Of Forver, U.D.O.) on drums. The album has a very big sound, courtesy of Alessandro Del Vecchio (Edge Of Forever, Glenn Hughes, Eden's Curse) and I'm looking forward to the reaction to this album, which is one of my personal favourites of 2010 so far...

**Are you able to reveal any longer-term plans for releases?**

Beside the already mentioned second Frozen Rain album, which won't be out before 2011, I'm working on some Westcoast, Melodic Rock and AOR projects with musicians from Scandinavia and Italy. Then I'm also talking to the guys of Fire (Malta) to re-release their out-of-print debut album with some bonus tracks, and there are also some very interesting project ideas that Alessandro Del Vecchio is developing. So there's hope for some great music in the not too distant future.

**Finally Greg, what are your hopes and concerns for the next five years?**

I hope that the steady development of the label continues, so Avenue Of Allies will be a constant in the tough music business and becomes an established and respected company and a household name among Rock fans. I think there is enough talent out there, so we can still put out quality albums that appeal to the audience, in the years to come.

Today most buyers of Rock music, just like myself, still like to have a physical CD with a booklet, so they have the musician and songwriter credits at hand and can read the lyrics. But that might change in the future with more people becoming legal digital downloaders. But that's not necessarily a concern as long as the label progresses with the demands of the market and I strongly believe there will always be a demand for good music.

Music has always been a part of a lot of people in their everyday life in one way or another and it seems that the youth of the new millennium is now discovering the Rock music scene that their parents grew up with in the 70s and 80s. Metal was always a constant that had a loyal fan base, but now more and more new bands are also revitalising the AOR, Melodic Rock, Classic Rock and Westcoast scene. And the re-unions of the bands that were big twenty and more years ago are also welcomed with open arms...at least most of them. I think all in all we can look confidently into the future.

**Well thanks for that, Greg. Your answers suggest a label brimming with ideas and very positive plans for the future. Indeed your answer**

**to the last question was probably the most upbeat that I have received from any label boss. Last time, for instance, Lars Eric Mattsson painted a very gloomy picture concerning illegal downloading of music and the impact it was having upon his company. But you don't appear to be so concerned...**

One of the reasons for my attitude towards this is probably that Avenue Of Allies started during a time when illegal downloads were already wide spread, so I only know from others in the business and not from my own experience how the business in general and especially the sales were before it all started. I always consider the whole situation in my business dealings and try to find an agreement with the artists that works fine for both parties.

**I am personally very excited by the imminent 'Shining Line' release. How did you get involved with this?**

The main man behind "Shining Line" is Pierpaolo "Zorro11" Monti from Italy. He is also the editor-in-chief for the Italian website hardsounds.it and he was one of the first writers to review the Frozen Rain album. We stayed in contact since then and when the "Shining Line" album was finished he told me about it and when I got a chance to listen to the songs they just blew me away. Zorro and also Alessandro Del Vecchio, who produced the album, know about my passion for big sounding pure AOR, which was also manifested in the offer for their amazing work, so they decided to sign with Avenue Of Allies. We are all looking forward to the release of the album, even more so since the first reactions have been really overwhelming.

**Is there anything further you would like to add, Greg?**

Paul, I've been following your label features with a lot of interest for quite a while and I was pleasantly surprised when you contacted me to be part of it. It's really appreciated and I'd like to thank you for giving me the chance to introduce Avenue Of Allies to your readers. We will do our best to release a lot more albums, that have the potential to find their way to the pages of Fireworks. So I hope, that you, Bruce and the whole team will keep up the great work and continue the successful co-operation with the label in the future.

Fireworks readers can keep up to date with developments at Avenue Of Allies by checking out the label's web site at [www.avenue-of-allies.com](http://www.avenue-of-allies.com) and MySpace at [www.myspace.com/avenue\\_of\\_allies](http://www.myspace.com/avenue_of_allies)

