

Interviews



Interview with Negru of Negura Bunget

By: Dave Schalek June 2010

Describe the period of time after the release of Om, and the touring cycle that followed. What led to the band's decision to re-record Maiastru Sfetnic?

After the release of Om, things started to change quite a lot for us as a band... We played some of the most important festivals, did three tours as headliners, and more and more people seemed to enjoy our music. We always had in mind re-recording the Maiastru Sfetnic album. We have been unsatisfied with its outcome since the very beginning, and always felt there was a lot more we could have done.

What led the band to change the album name to Maiastrit? Would you mind providing an English translation of the two album titles?

Maiestrut is in Romanian something like "further crafted, enriched"... which is actually what we did with the original material. So there's not that much of a change of name as it is an evolution. Maiastru Sfetnic would be something like "majestic spiritual adviser."

If you don't mind, what circumstances led to the departure of founding member Hupogrammos and Sol Faur?

I think there were just little things accumulating over time. Working close together for almost 15 years made its mark over time, and, in the end, it just became harder and harder to work together.

Did the band's dissolution lead to difficulties regarding the release of Maiastrit?

It was a bit difficult to finish the material under the new circumstances, but we managed to do it. We were in the middle of the recording when the split happened, but we were determined to finish, nevertheless.

What are your feelings regarding the inclusion of the album's last two, acoustical tracks?

They were more like a bonus. We had some different ideas on what to add on this release to take it a step further from the original version. The two acoustic tracks are not fully new ones, but at the same time they are quite different from the original versions. They offer a new perspective on the material, which was the main idea behind doing it.

**What led you to decide to continue as Negura Bunget?**

There was no point where I was not determined to continue. Negura Bunget was pretty much my life the last 10 years, so I can never separate with it. The only thing I needed to be sure was that I am able to take it further, and continue our evolution path.

Describe how you went about recruiting new members.

I actually knew all the members before. More or less, they all have been involved in Negura Bunget in the past. The most important thing I had to care was they can be 100% involved in the band. Negura Bunget is not an after work project.

Were you concerned that you might not be able to reproduce the band's successful creative core with new members?

You never know how things work out. I was pretty confident I made the right choices, but only time was to tell if I was right. I'm happy to see I was. And this is just the beginning. There's a lot more we have planned for the future.



Describe the process of creating the newest full-length album, Virstele Pamintului?

For this album we did something we planned for a long time... we took some time and went in the wilderness, and focused only on composing the album. It was a spiritual experience we will never forget. We came back home with the basics ready and then we recorded it on our own studio.

How well does the album compare with the prior output from Negura Bunget?

I think it is a turning point. It is still a continuation of the work we did in the past, but, at the same time, it's a new beginning as well. There still a lot of evolution ahead of us, and Virstele Pamintului was just the beginning.

What touring will take place to support, and promote, the album?

We finished a very long European Tour a couple of weeks ago. Almost fifty dates. We did some festivals as well, including Hellfest last weekend, and now we'll continue working on some new material. We have arranged another tour for autumn, this time along with Enslaved.

Any plans to ever play live in the United States?

We'd definitely like to play in the U.S. in the near future. We are working on this already, but it's not easy to arrange. But, I'm sure that a time will come soon for us to play live in the U.S.

Thank you for your time, it is much appreciated

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