

THUNDER

British band Thunder comes up with their newest album called *All the Right Noises*, an album we have needed to wait an extra long time for as the release was delayed due to the Covid-pandemic raging the world. We got to talk a little with singer Danny Bowes before the release about the album, the corona situation and more.



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The album was recorded before the Covid happened, it was finished before the lockdown begun and that lockdown meant that the album was delayed.

- Which means that we have been very frustrated waiting a long time to share the music with other people. But in the grand scheme of things it is not too bad, we all got our health and I think that is the most important thing.

Hard to argue with that, even though it means a constant

change of plans. Like with tour dates.

- We made some tour plans, but we needed to change and I think we need to change them again.

The tour plans are for May at the moment but, that is likely to change as it seems to take more time than that before the situation is good enough to allow crowds again. And Danny thinks that people are looking too much to their governments to solve the situation for them.

- Whilst governments are in charge and make policy, I think the individuals need to take social

responsibility for themselves and others to help the situation and do their bit to make the situation go away as quickly as possible. Because if people don't take responsibility this is just going to go on and on. It is difficult, human beings are social beings by nature and a lot of people are struggling, I am not because I am not a very sociable person. Says Danny and laughs.

The writer of the article can only agree, as Danny points out when we talk; he hates everyone. But isolation, social distancing and not meeting people can be good as well. Not only because it

limits exposure to contagions but also because it can be a source for creativity, something that Danny thinks is the case for him.

- Sure, you tend to kind of revert to what you do best and if you have more time to do it, you have the opportunity to do good work. I do a radio show here in the UK for radio station Planet Rock, they asked me to interview Dave Grohl from Foo Fighters a little while ago. I asked him what he has been doing and he said he'd never been busier doing all kinds of things. That's what we all should be doing.

Anticipation of Noises

In a way the situation forces creativity as you are forced to think new and activate yourself when you cannot go out on tours, visit shows and whatever. But there is of course a big part that is removed from everyone when we can't go on tours, visit shows or sports events, or other things that you do along with many other people. And in regard to the tours there is an important part that is removed.

- It is tough not only for musicians but for audiences, because if you are used to going out to see band play live and

then suddenly you can't do that anymore. It is a big chunk of your life removed.

All those fans and musicians forced to avoid this interaction that is a part of the experience for people that enjoy music probably builds an energy that will be released in some strong experience when the crowds are finally allowed again.

- I am just trying to imagine how amazing it will be when you go to the first gig, I think the first venue that Thunder plays in will probably need a new roof. It is going to be like a massive volcano going off.



Before that happens the record is being released and it has been anticipated by the fans, Thunder has a big and loyal fanbase says Danny and they are very excited about the advance tracks that has been released so far.

- We had a lot of fun when we made it. We changed the way we works a couple of years ago and now we only go into the studio for a couple of weeks and record the best tunes we have at that time, and then we go away. We do that a few times until we got an album made, and the good thing is that we only do it for a short period so it never feels like work, it always feels like fun. I think it shows up in the music when you hear it.

With such an approach it is also easier to keep the songs fresher compared with working long stretches in the studio.

- It feels like we're having good all the time because we are laughing and capture all the best tracks and we just sit back and listen. We have known each other a very long time so we are very honest about the good stuff and the bad stuff. Nobody in the band has an ego and if somebody screws something up we just say "you were rubbish on that one...", and then we laugh and we do it again. It is easy, I think that is what you get when you have been together in a band for a long time.

All The Right Noises

"All the right noises" was recorded in three sessions and Danny explains that they wrote 21 songs in total, recorded 15 of them, and from those 15 they decided on eleven for the album. But that wasn't all for the four tracks that didn't end up on the album.

- The record label decided that they liked the other four that didn't go on the album. And they asked if we couldn't put those tracks on a different version of

the album, like a 2-CD-version of the album. We said "hey, but that's only four tracks, what are we going to do?" Then I had the idea that we should go into the studio and rerecord live with extra players, there were eight of us. The rule was to start the song and finish it, we were not fixing anything up, just do until we feel like we nailed it.

They did that for eight songs that got a different spark in comparison with the songs on the actual album, and these songs can be found on the 2-CD-version of the album. A good value for the fans, and on the band's web you can find quite a few bundles of the album.

As a writer I have to admit that one of my favourite questions to ask is the one about the favourite song, as usually you get the most diverse answers there and I think everyone has a favourite song even though they don't want to admit it, so what about Danny?

- I think that my favourite song is the one that I struggled the most to sing, there is a song called *I'll Be The One* which is a ballad. For some reason I couldn't get the weight right, I am good at singing loud but not very good at singing quietly and that particular song is quiet. I think it took me three different attempts on three different days before I was happy. That is not how it normally happens, it usually takes about an hour and this took way too long. Because it was the biggest challenge it is the one I am most pleased about.

Is it the best one on the album?

- I don't know, it makes me happier than the rest.

But there is a lot of good songs on the album, and it covers a diversity of subjects with social commentary, some heavy subjects that leads Danny to give Luke (Morley, the guitarist and main song-writer) a suggestion.



Danny



Benny



Chris



Harry



Luke

- I spoke to Luke recently and asked "could you do me favour and take some happy tablets, I need you to be happier when you make the records". There is a lot of misery on this album, but I think it is delivered in a really interesting way, and it is happiness too. He has written two songs about Donald Trump, that's amazing, and in one of them he tries to get into his mind which is also amazing.

And it is a different album in many ways, and during the lockdown Danny took up some old forms of exercise for the first time in a while.

- I started running for the first time in ages, and I played the new album over and over when I was running. That is unheard of,

I never really listen to our music after we have finished it normally because all I can hear are the things I hate and I am never really satisfied with what I have done. I like what the other guys do but I can only hear mistakes and the bits where I didn't hit it the way I wanted to, but this one I really enjoyed listening to and I have listened to it a lot. I don't know if it is a good sign or a bad sign.

The Pictures of Noises

The cover is pretty distinctive for this album and it is a photograph by their friend Jason Joyce who has taken lots of photos for them in the past. The title came from Luke and is taken from the second track *Destruction*, a song about mental illness and it is a

line from the second verse in that song. The band agreed that it was a good title and then started researching images for weird musical instruments.

- We came across this picture of this sculpture called Singing Ringing Tree*, and there is two of these in the world, one in Texas, and this one in the UK that is in a hill above a town called Burnley. It is, as you can see in the picture, very exposed and there are lots of good photographs of it but we decided to take our own photograph.

In between lockdowns in the UK, Luke and Jason went to Burnley and stayed overnight for an early photoshoot.

- I think it was around three in the morning that they left the hotel

and photographed the sculpture against the sky when the sun came up. The photo was taken at three thirty in the morning and it is not photoshopped. He sent me videos and kept telling me how cold it was, I think that he was trying to make me feel bad, but he failed.

We round off by looking at the reaction to the album, *Hallowed* was very favourable and a web research shows that many reviewers seems to really like "All the Right Noises".

- Some people have even told me that it is the best Thunder album we've ever made which is a bit odd as many people seems to look at the first albums through kind of rose tinted glasses; because it reminds them of their

youth, so it is hard to compete with your first album. But a lot of people have said that they think it is the best one, I don't know if that is right but I'll take it.

"All The Right Noises" was released on 2021-03-12.

Thunder are:

Danny Bowes - vocals
Luke Morley - guitar
Ben Matthews -guitar & keys
Chris Childs - bass
Gary 'Harry' James - drums

Some Links:

thunderonline.com
Thunder on youtube
The Hallowed review of All The Right Noises

* The Singing Ringing Tree is a wind powered sound sculpture set in the landscape of the Pennine hill range overlooking Burnley, Lancashire, England.

Completed in 2006, it is part of the series of four sculptures within the Panopticons arts and regeneration project created by the East Lancashire Environmental Arts Network.

Designed by architects Mike Tonkin and Anna Liu of Tonkin Liu, it is a 3-metre tall construction comprising pipes of galvanised steel which harness energy of the wind to produce a slightly discordant and penetrating choral sound covering a range of several octaves. *Source: Wikipedia*