



INTERVIEW - VADIM PRUZHANOV – Maldito Piano

Today on Maldito Piano We have a very special interview. Vadim Pruzhanov is one of these keyboardists who don't leave nobody indifferent. Incredibly fast solos, virtuous improvisations, humorous winks to familiar melodies... All these are reasons more than enough to be the keyboardist of one of the best current bands: DRAGONFORCE! Yes!! You have read well: We are with the person who was the awesome keyboardist of Dragonforce, Vadim Pruzhanov.

Hi Vadim, Welcome to Maldito Piano and thank you so much for accepting our invitation.

How and When Did you start to play keyboards?

I was primary introduced to piano when I was around 8 years old and my parents got me to take classical piano lessons.

Few years later I decided to quit, but shortly after seeing Phil Collins from Genesis perform on TV I picked it back up and carried on as self-taught. I would pit up the melodies of Brian Adams and Black Sabbath songs and play them with my dad's Yamaha ps synth at that time.

Do you have musical or piano/keyboard influences?

Phil Collins is the person who sparked the interest in music generally after my classical lessons.

When I was growing up my dad would put on artists vary in genres such as Black Sabbath, Brian Adams or Rick Wakeman

But I can't say any of them had inspired me to play keyboard in particular though.

When and why did you change keyboards for keytars?

During the Sonic Firestorm with Dragonforce I started to integrate the keyboard solos as a part of the show.

It felt limiting just being on one place and wasn't very easy to interact with the crowd so the keytars were the evolution that was introduced once Inhuman Rampage touring cycle had started. I decided to use the skills I gained from my A levels in Art & Design studies and customise the shells of the instruments to suit my liking. I felt the freedom to experiment with my skillset to add to the live show.

Can you tell us about your tongue technique to play the keytar?

I remember when I first started to use my tongue to use across the whole keyboard when soloing during the Sonic Firestorm album cycle. I later started to play melodies as with my tongue it made it more interesting to me. It felt like it added to the live show and brought more dynamics to the performance over all.

When did you start to add melodies from TV or videogames to your solos?

I will be honest with you. I had never really felt the need to utilise the video game sounds within my compositions.

Other members of the group had been more into it and often requested certain parts to have 8bit type of sounds.

I always thought music cartoons was really expressive when it come to sounddesign and arrangements and I wanted to use that within my composition. Rabid Squirrel composition was inspired by Over the Hedge animation. The whole thing, including samples was done on my Triton extreme synth at that time. It was exciting to me as I had freedom to do whatever I wanted musically.

We read that, after leaving Drangonforce on 2017, you were working on other independent projects and even thinking on creating a new band. Are these true? What are your plans for the future?

Just a little correction. I have left the band in May of 2018.

Indeed I have several projects in works at the moment. All of which are heavily synth driven records. One is mainly done with Modular synthesisers and it will be a Christian worship album which I am very excited about. I was able to express myself artistically and lyrically exactly the way I wanted with no restrictions like before. I have good amount of meterial for more than 2 records. Some very heavy stuff and some pop rock endeavours also. I can't really share too much about it at this point but for those who are interested check out my social pages under "Vadlife" category.

I thought of putting a band together but for now I am just focusing on God, family and music.

I have two young daughters and at the moment it's tricky to find time to fully immerse yourself into recording mindset. I developed a routine where I am working during the day and in evening when I have time I record my music in my home music studio. Things are taking

Time to put together as I am literally doing everything. And once I have a finish piece of art I shall start sharing it and releasing it and hopefully performing it live too when the time is right.

Finally, we want to ask you about some questions that we make to all our guests.

Do you think that conservatories are necessary to create professional and good musicians?

I don't thing they are necessary but it is helpful to have a degree of any musical knowledge and I believe it will help you along the way as you grow.

Do you believe that some musical styles are better than others?

I believe that every genre of music has it's own listener and will appeal to it's own audience. I don't think it is right for me to say one is better than the other. I honestly feel there isn't a

“best” genre spot to speak. My view is that any genre of music can be successful. It's only a matter of finding your it's audience. As long as what you are doing is honest and uncompromised on any level I believe it will be successful.

What do you think about mixing different styles of music?

I think it can be done. As long as an artist doing it based on his/hers honest direction and not to please fans or to fit within the trend then I can't see anything wrong with it. I personally would be bored of just playing in the same genre of music always.

Do you think that having a good technique and training is necessary to play any kind of music?

I believe that a good technique is necessary to play well. When you go to see a live show, you expect the artist you had been listening be able to reproduce a piece of music in real life. Any style of music requires a certain degree of diligence to perform live.

Progressive music and jazz in my opinion would require more practice but that's my subjective opinion on the matter.

Do you prefer to play everything live or are you preferring to take pre-recorded, sequences, etc.?

I think it's good to perform live cause you get those magical moments that can't always be recreated. Happy accident if you will.

I think as long as you are honest with your audience about what you do and why you are doing it, I'm sure there'll be people who will appreciate your art. I think pre recorded track can work live if there is an essential part of music that can't be recreated live, but as long as you aren't miming and making people believe you're playing live when you aren't then it's ok.

That's all for today. Thank you so much for this musical moment. It was awesome for us. We hope to see you playing soon!!

Thank you for the interview. God bless you!