

Biography

There is not much to report that would be interesting and that I would like to share with others. Since 2004 I have been one of the two people behind the synthpop/electro/wave project 'Pitch Black Inc. Before that I was the singer and guitarist of Desert + Fortune from 1994 to 2005, a gothic rock band that also made it onto a ZILLO and GOTHIC sampler with one or two songs. If anyone ever listens to one of their songs, they will definitely find many stylistic elements in SCHANZ.

Project

SCHANZ is an alternative rock project. Or indie rock. Or maybe a little gothic rock. There's certainly a bit of punk in there too. Either way, it's difficult for me to categorise my own project - the important thing is: do you like it? Then listen to it. Don't like it, then leave it. I like it. That's why I'm doing it and of course I hope that others will be moved by the songs and want to listen to them.

The idea of starting my own project came about in 2024 because I had a lot of song and lyric ideas running through my head. And I wanted to work more with guitars again. The final 'trigger' was a song that was too 'cheesy' (original comment from the other half of PB Inc., Harald) for Pitch Black Inc. But for me, 'The Sun' was somehow finished and it felt right to develop something of my own from it. And so this solo project developed from summer 24 onwards.

I was a little desperate in my search for a name that would fit, until Harald again said in a subordinate clause: 'Just call it Schanz.' The idea somehow stuck and was ultimately the only name that remained after many internal discussions.

Album

AD/2 are the first 7 songs that were created. Even though hardly anyone streams a whole album anymore, I still wanted to release an 'old school' album, not an EP. Admittedly, with 7 songs and a running time of around 34 minutes, it's not really a long player, but at least it's an album. And after months of intensive work, it was time to finalise these songs before I dedicate myself to new material, which is of course in the works, and incorporate the experiences from this album into my future work. At some point, when composing, mixing, etc., you have to put an end to it. Songs are somehow never finished.

I owe the name of the album to a young architect in my family circle who suggested naming the project the way they do: they don't give names to projects but use the initials of the address. AD/2 is therefore not a second part of something, but is made up of the first letter and the house number where the album was created.

Songs

Long Distance To Go goes forward, the most 'aggressive' track on AD/2. The theme is that you never really reach the end and that there are always new experiences/impressions through which you can develop further - if you want to. You can overcome boundaries, broaden your own perspectives, expand your horizons, etc. There is always more to discover or to ignore. In any case, there is still a long road ahead of us, wherever it takes us.

Wherever You Go is not a stalker song and not about owning other people. The lyrics are a metaphor for the honest, sincere relationship that actually exists. Whatever happens, wherever it blows you, I'll be there for you when you need me. The song has a very classic and homogeneous structure. To experiment a little, the drums and bass are rather restless and stumble a little into the song.

In my opinion, **The Sun** is the most positive song on AD/2. Among other things, it lives from the synthetic strings in the background and the 'lightness' in the chorus. It is the first song that was composed for the project. Or rather, first there was the song, then the project, because the song as it is now released did not fit the duo Pitch Black Inc. But I couldn't imagine any other version. Yes, it's a 'love song' and written for a very special person in my life. The pictures that the lyrics paint may still touch one or two people.

X is a reckoning with the people you have to deal with at work, with society in general, with the wrong friends and so on. We waste our time trying to solve problems for others. We try to keep the system going. But many don't want any solutions at all, they're just happy to complain about everything. They know everything better. It's always the others who are responsible. And when it comes down to it, you're on your own and they stab you in the back. In addition to the 'personal' reckoning, I particularly enjoyed incorporating two quotes from two of my absolute favourite films. There is also a 'radio edit' for X. Why? I listened to friends. I like to stretch out the individual musical themes, some people call it length. That's why I tried to find the 'essence'. That probably works, but I couldn't part with the original version, so there are two versions: one for those who have time and want to let themselves fall into the song. And one for in-between listening in the car - or something like that.

Time was the second song I composed and deals with the hectic pace that surrounds us. The anonymity of everyday life. People and fates pass us by and we hardly notice because we are overwhelmed by all the influences. And then there are moments when we wonder whether the old man sitting opposite us on the bus, who has lived his life, will die happily surrounded by his family or whether he will wait for his end alone in a small, neglected room. Everything has its time and sometimes you have to take a few seconds to sort yourself and the impressions around you.

Blind is a very inward-looking song. Blind and deaf to external influences. Nothing can really be felt, neither pain nor the beauty of a sunny day or similar. Mind and body are no longer connected. Even in your own dreams you are only a spectator and no longer have any control. You can only find your way back to yourself if you face up to your fears and bring 'light into the darkness'. You will always be a little blind and deaf, but at least you can decide for yourself whether to give up or fight your way out of crises again and again so that you can enjoy the many small positive moments.

Voice And Sound tells of two extremes, depressive phases and manic ones: complete emptiness and listlessness (the head is an empty room without furniture, windows or pictures) on the one hand and a completely overcrowded room full of windows, doors and pictures on the other. Every line of the floor is filled with thoughts. Both normalise again and you usually move in phases that are ok. Giving your thoughts a voice, processing your emotions through sounds - that's what songs are for. They can pull the rug out from under your feet and create unforgettable moments. No matter where and when: music makes you feel alive.