

Vigri - Interview with Bjarki Pjetursson

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When you've started to make music together with your brother - did you have already a vision of how Vigri would sound like back then?

Not really, the sound developed a lot during the two years of recording Pink Boats. We worked constantly on every song until we were happy with it. Most of the album is recorded by ourselves and we were always developing, both musically and technically. It was really a healthy experience for us as artists to get to know all the parts of the process.

What was the initial idea of you and your brother forming a band?

We never sat down and decided to form a band. Back then I was working on a small film script and decided to go to Flatey Island to work on it. (Flatey is located in the middle of nowhere in Iceland). Hans found out about it and decided to join me to record in a small church on the other side of the island while I was supposed to be writing. When we arrived Hans planted his recording equipment and instruments to work on his ideas. I joined him and we intensively laid down ideas and demos for three weeks. Sadly my film script never managed to happen. So I think, actually, that Vigri just sort of happened

Why and when did the both of you decide that there had to be more people in the band?

Our first concert was at the Iceland Airwaves Music Festival 2010. We knew we needed more instruments to play the songs faithfully live. We basically gathered some of our friends that we had known for many years and asked them to join Vigri. That's how we became the five piece band we are today.

Are the other three guys involved in the process of creating music since then? Or is it basically you or Hans and you writing new songs?

At first it was mainly me and Hans, but now everyone is involved during the process. We have new songs that haven't been released yet, we will play them while we are touring.

It's important to play it live and shape it. Then we will figure out everything later.

Is this the reason why you haven't released the new album yet? I've read it was scheduled for summer 2012 ...

Yes, probably. The plan was to release it last summer. But I think that quality comes with time, and it takes us a while to get happy.

When I saw you playing at last year's Iceland Airwaves at the Eymundsson bookstore I remember heaps of girls (there were probably only four?!) playing violins and cello. As I guess they won't be with you on tour I'm not sure what to expect from your upcoming shows but I also don't know the new songs. So can you tell me a bit more about it?

Unfortunately we are unable to bring the girls with us on this tour. Our show is probably more dynamic now than when you saw us in the bookstore. The new material is maybe a bit faster than the old stuff.

How comes this tour through Switzerland and Germany is going to happen for you, how did you get to work together with Breathing Hole Booking?

How we got in contact with Breathing hole was just a matter of the right person in the right place

took a liking to our music and apparently thought that it should be heard by a bigger audience... we really had no part in approaching them, but it has opened a lot of doors for us just as Airwaves has done for countless other artists.

So Iceland Airwaves does play an important role?

We are counting ourselves lucky to be a part of it and wholeheartedly support what they stand for. It has successfully combined the grassroots element of new bands creating music, with a sort of a showcase feel for reporters and labels.

And it is quite possibly the reason why we are here in the first place.