



PJÄXERÖD 2.0

Johan Björklund

ETERNAL DARKNESS RECORDS - EDR001 ©2023

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THE BACKGROUND

Embracing and finding inspiration/irritation in my youth and background on the Swedish countryside is the source for creating this music.

Ever since starting my journey in music as a kid this has been an integral part in everything I have done, the fact that I grew up in a certain, really special place in Sweden. The cultural, social and geographical background is there whether you want it or not. These conditions forms you in certain ways, for good and for something to explore, challenge and be challenged by. And the nature! Such a beautiful place that I see with totally new eyes now as an older and perhaps wiser person.

An old word for nomad/beggar in Swedish is Piekker and the farm were I grew up from 5 years old, is called Pjäxeröd (in really old days "Piegs Rudi", the beggars place), close to the village of Hedekas in North East Bohuslän, Sweden.

I am no beggar but definitely a curious and adventurous nomad.

THE MUSIC

A majority of the music created in Pjäxeröd 2.0 comes from a close collaboration with musician/composer Arve Henriksen (trumpet/electronics/voice).

The basic workflow was either recorded sessions where we played, improvised, discussed, experimented with different sound sources/instruments etc and then it continued with sending audio files, edits and remixes of the recorded work back and forth. It could also start with someone of us sending a soundfile or another type of idea and then the music evolved from that exchange.

After that I have invited different musicians to add what they feel can contribute to the music. With few or no guidelines I have left it to them with full artistic freedom.

Then the great puzzle of sound files, effects and more recordings has resulted in the music presented here.



"TEARS IN MY EYES TURNS INTO FIRE AS WHERE I BELONG.
THE COLD WITHIN, IT CHILLS MY SKIN. MY HEART AND SOUL.
IN ECSTASY I SHRED MYSELF TO RELEASE WHAT'S HELD WITHIN."
"FROZEN" - DISSECTION



THE WORDS

Each piece has a story that connects to different places and/or things that happened in and around the village of Hedekas, North East Bohuslän, Sweden

DARK DREAMS INTRO

Johan Björklund - norddrum, synth

Introduction to the fierce fight against the Law of Jante.

NUCLEAR HIGHLANDS

Johan Björklund - plastic, peas, synth

Arve Henriksen - trumpet

John Lönnmyr - synth

Maria Palmqvist - voice

Kynnefjäll. In the 1980s the Swedish Government wanted to do drill the mountain to see if this area was a good storage for Nuclear Waste (for the coming 100000 years). The locals didn't like this at all and blocked the road and guarded the mountain Kynnefjäll 24/7 for over 20 years. Then the Swedish Government gave up.

THE END OF THE ROAD

Johan Björklund - drums

Arve Henriksen - trumpet

Thomas Gunillasson - electric guitar

John Lönnmyr - organ

If you drive 3-4 kilometers into the woods from Pjäxeröd the road ends at Kantorn and the Great Forest takes over all control.

HUNTING KANTORN PART I

Johan Björklund - scratched drums, drone cymbal, electronics

Thomas Markusson - double bass

Klåbungeröd, really close to Kantorn (The end of the road) was the place where the morning gatherings took place before the yearly moose hunt. Adrenaline and excitement mixed with tension and nervous feelings. A rough but also friendly place for those invited, especially when you were just a child/teenager.

FROZEN

Johan Björklund - electric guitar, electronics, synth

Arve Henriksen - trumpet, electronics

John Lönnmyr - synth, organ

Thomas Markusson - double bass

Armand van Wijck - chromatic harmonica

This is reflecting the sometimes really low outside temperatures appearing locally in the area during winter. Especially during my childhood, causing cancellations of the schoolbus and some quite dangerous situations in the cold.

It is also about the mighty frozen lakes in the area, taking lifes when people went out on way too thin ice.

"DON'T GO THERE, IT'S BOTTOMLESS AND YOU MIGHT FALL IN TO IT"

TRAPPED UNDER WATER

Johan Björklund - nord drum, synth, electronics

I can swim but I don't like it. I have come to realise that this kind of fear might reflect things in the past. Young lives taken by the lakes, rivers, ice and other incidents comes back in dark memories.

ENTER THE WHITE LIGHT

Johan Björklund - drums, synth, nord drum
Arve Henriksen - trumpet

Ekebacken. I lived here 1978-1980 before my family moved to our newbuilt house in Pjäxeröd. Memories in phragments. The neighbour Åke and his dog, the garden with all the trees. Strange nightmares. The place was, after we moved out, bought by a young man and his family. He died a couple of years later, way too young.

SCRATCHING RIGHT BACK

Johan Björklund - drums, electronics, synth
Arve Henriksen - electronics
Maria Palmqvist - voice

Lersättersbacken - when you were 10 years old and had never visited Scandinavias biggest amusement park Liseberg in Gothenburg to be able to compare, this was the greatest thrill.
Insanely dangerous road, luckily adjusted to greater safety nowadays.

MÅNSTJÄRN

Johan Björklund - bass drum, percussion, drums, synth, samples, stylophone
John Lönnmyr - synth
Arve Henriksen - electronics
Maria Palmqvist - voice
Thomas Gunillasson - electric guitar

"Don't go there, it's bottomless and you might fall in to it". A dangerous and beautiful small lake (tjärn in Swedish) in the forests surrounding Pjäxeröd (again, not far from Kantorn)

HUNTING KANTORN PART II

Johan Björklund - scratched drums, drone cymbal, electronics
Arve Henriksen - trumpet
Maria Palmqvist - voice
John Lönnmyr - organ

Klåbungeröd, really close to Kantorn (The end of the road) was the place where the morning gatherings took place before the yearly moose hunt.
Adrenaline and excitement mixed with tension and nervous feelings. A rough but also friendly place for those invited, especially when you were just a child/teenager.
The hunt often kept on going for a couple of days so here is part II.

GHOSTS OF PJÄXERÖD

Johan Björklund - drums, rhodes, electric bass, grand piano
Arve Henriksen - trumpet, voice, electronics
Maria Palmqvist - voice
Thomas Gunillasson - electric guitar

Abandoned houses that no one took responsibility for... they are still there 30 years later.
They were called locally Sandbergs, One-eyed Gunnars house etc. Those names often referred to their last inhabitants.

SLOW VEHICLES

Johan Björklund - nord drum, synth
John Lönnmyr - organ
Thomas Gunillasson - electric guitar

One of the more significant things on the Swedish countryside is all the slow vehicles on the roads.
Tractors, mopeds and some times horses with carriage to name a few.
A sometimes needed reminder to adjust your pace to the things around.

GO BACK TO THE SHADOW

Johan Björklund - nord drum, drums
Arve Henriksen - trumpet, electronics
Armand van Wijck - harmonica
Maria Palmqvist - voice
John Lönnmyr - organ

The Law of Jante (Axsel Sandemoses master piece "A fugitive crosses his path", strongly recommended reading). Strongly present in the area since way back. I say "go back to the shadow and let us bloom instead".

TRIGGERING HEDEKAS - WHO ARE YOU?

Johan Björklund - drums, electronics, synth
Arve Henriksen - trumpet, electronics
Armand van Wijck - chromatic harmonica
Thomas Gunillasson - electric guitar
John Lönnmyr - organ

Trying to make money selling "Jultidningar" as a young boy wasn't always the nicest thing.
A really unpleasant meeting with an old drunk (fyllgubbe in Swedish) and his poor wife that I will never forget.

DARK DREAMS OUTRO

Johan Björklund - nord drum, synth

Thank you for listening.



THE TRACKS

1. Dark Dreams Intro
2. Nuclear Highlands
3. The End Of The Road
4. Hunting Kantorn Part I
5. Frozen
6. Trapped Under Water
7. Enter The White Light
8. Scratching Right Back
9. Månstjärn
10. Hunting Kantorn Part II
11. Ghosts Of Pjäxeröd
12. Slow Vehicles
13. Go Back To The Shadow
14. Triggig Hedekas - Who Are You?
15. Dark Dreams Outro

THE CREDITS

Recorded mainly 2021-2023 at Studio Eternal Darkness, Gothenburg, Sweden by Johan Björklund.
Grand piano on "Ghosts of Pjäxeröd" recorded 2022 at Vänersborgs Museum, Sweden by Johan Björklund.
Additional field recordings 2021 at HSM, Gothenburg, Sweden by Arve Henriksen.
Additional individual recordings by Arve Henriksen, Thomas Markusson, John Lönnmyr and Thomas Gunillasson 2021-2023.
Mixed at Studio Zen, Gothenburg and Vänersborg, Sweden by Kristofer Göransson with assistance of Johan Björklund.
Produced by Johan Björklund.
Mastered at Studio Zen, Vänersborg, Sweden by Kristofer Göransson.
Photos of trees and landscapes by Johan Björklund.
Photo of Johan by Therese Kjellstorp.
Photo edits by Therese Kjellstorp.
Cover artwork and booklet by Thomas Gunillasson.

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Thanx to:
Anders Jormin, Thomas Strønen, Helge Sunde, Adrian Barstad Andresen, Daniela Lönnström,
Dave Weckl, Sörbygdens Samhällsförening, Rickard Biljoo, Danielle Mulder, NoCom (HSM/NMH/RMC).

With financial support from the Swedish Arts Council

