



Alberto Rigoni has become one of THE newcomer on the bass-scene during the last couple of years. He's playing bass with such different bands like prog-metal-band „TwinSpirits“, the new pop electro duo „Lady & the BASS“ and his solo-project.

Reasons enough for an interview with the bustling Italian.

Hi Alberto!

Ciao Maik!! Thanks for this interview!
Hope that everything is going well!

What are you working on at the moment?

Well, I've just completed my new solo album that features also great musicians such as Gavin Harrison (Porcupine Tree), John Macaluso (Ark, ex-Malmsteen), Michael Manring, Yves Carbonne and many others. It's going to be released on Nightmare Records on March 2011 I think (TBC)

Wow, that's a nice line-up! How did you choose the musicians for your solo record?

Thanks Maik! These musicians are amazing! I love their playing! Well, the first musician I've contacted was Gavin Harrison. His playing was perfect for a tune I had in mind so.. and the same happened for the other guests and songs :)

Sounds like some serious prog-music !

I hope so :) Well there're some prog tunes but it also features some rock tunes and bass "only" songs with some relaxing atmospheres..

Another project of yours is *Lady & the BASS*. Can you tell us about this?

It's a new project focused on bass grooves and female vocals. Our first single "*Quirky Girl*" has just been released on digital stores (iTunes, Amazon MP3 etc) by Emmeciesse Music and the video-clip is available on Youtube. Check it out!

[Lady & the Bass - Quirky Girl \(Video\)](#)

Nice song! Is this project going on stage?

Grazie! Glad to hear that you like it! Yes we already played some gigs and hope to play more soon!

Do you play live as a duo or with a band?

We play live as a duo but sometimes we have also a keyboard player (Federico Solazzo who's playing with the famous Italian singer Alexia)

As all this were not enough, you also playing bass with Italian based progressive-metal-band *TwinSpirits*.

I've just recorded bass tracks for the new *TwinSpirits* album and we also shot a video-clip for the song "*My Future*" (from the album *The Forbidden City*)

released by Lion Music on september 11th 2009).

Btw: I've also completed Mitheria's (italian virtuoso keyboard player) "*Dragon Fire*" album line-up recording the whole CD. The album's personnel in full is:

On Vocals John West, Mark Boals, Rob Rock, Titta Tani and Lance King.

Guitars by George Bellas, Roger Staffelbach, Emir Hot and Neil Zaza.

And on drums John Macaluso.



Rigoni live with TwinSpirits

TwinSpirits are playing complex progressive metal.

How do you write and rehears these songs?

Daniele Liverani, the keyboard player, is *TwinSpirits'* mastermind, he writes all the songs and lyrics. He is amazing and I love his songwriting.

We rehears the instrumental parts without the singer (he lives in Sweden) very often and, before

Touring, or recordings we rehears all together.

How do you practice all these fast lines?

When I'm at home, I practice with the drum tracks only. But first I use the metronome (slow BPM to normal BPM)

When and why have you started to play bass?

I started playing when I was 17 (now I'm 28). A friend of mine introduced me to *Dream Theater* and I felt in love with them. So I decided that I wanted to play *Dream Theater*-songs...

And why did you choose the bass instead of the guitar, keyboard or drums? :)

To be honest I tried with drums first but it was a total failure!!!

Together with drummer Enrico Buttol you founded the band ASCRA, which covered songs by prog-metal-legends *Dream Theater*. No easy task because of the complexity of their songs, right?

Yeah.. not easy!

But it was really challenging!

I think the first song I've learned was

„*Erotomania*“ (from the *Awake*-album). Not too fast but pretty complex due the continuous time changes.

What is so special about this band?

I really love their first albums such as *Images & Words*, *Awake*, *A Change Of Seasons*. There's something magic in their songwriting.. they have not just technique but also a lot catchy melodic lines. Also they are incredible musicians.

Have you had bass-lessons?

I had a few lessons at the beginning. I'm almost self taught

What other musicians and bands have influenced you?

My main music background is progressive metal and rock so... *Rush*, *Genesis*, *Symphony X* etc.. But I listen to all kind of music.

I think that i've been also influenced by many bass players like Michael Manring, Randy Coven, Doug Wimbish, etc.

For your song „*BASSEX*“ you shot a music clip, wich was broadcast on some Italian tv-networks. What was the viewers reaction?

[Alberto Rigoni - BASSEX \(Video\)](#)

Well, I think most part of the viewers didn't look at the bass :) Watch the videoclip and you'll understand what I mean hehe.

By the way, the song and the video got really nice feedbacks from all kind of listeners.

Thank god you didn't slap on this tune :) .

How did you came up with this idea?

Well, my target was to have a funny video.. so the director (Elia Cristofoli - Solingo) got the idea!

When and why you started playing 6-string basses?

My first bass was a 4 string but after a couple of months I wanted to learn „*A Change of Seasons*“ (*Dream Theater*) and that song requires a 6 string bass so I purchased it :)

6 strings are now my main basses!

You used to play an F-Bass, now you play an Elrick Bass. Whats the difference between these instruments?

Well, I love the sound of Fender Jazz Bass so I've always been looking for 6 strings basses that sound like a JB. Fbass has that tone, it's like an evolution of fender.

My Elrick Gold Serie (bolt-on) 6 string

has JB tone as well but it has more presence and headroom. I also own a Elrick Hybrid 5, The Hybrid model perfectly bridges the gap between thru-neck and bolt-on. The feel of a thru-neck with many qualities of a bolt-on.

Recently I discovered Dingwall basses, with fanned fret system... they are absolutely amazing!!! Low B to die for.. 37' scale... and 34' on G string. Many bass players ask me if it's hard to play a bass with fanned frets... well, no it's not! I got used in 5 minutes and now I can play much better and faster than on a normal bass. Dingwall tone is killer.. I'd like to thanks Sheldon for making them. They are truly revolutionary...the greatest single improvement in bass design since the 70's, IMHO...

You are a Aguilar-Endorser. What's special about their amps and cabs?

I spent years on looking for the right tone. Aguilar allows me to have a powerful, warm and high quality sound without changing the source of the instrument. I'm using AG 500 dual channel and I really dig also the Channel Two's 3-band shelving EQ and Saturation circuit that gives me everything from tube-like grit to full on dirt. The DB410 cab has an incredible attack and presence that

cut through the mix!

What is the outlook for the immediate future?

TwinSpirit's third album is mixed and mastered and it will be released by Lion Music on march 2011 (TBC). The Lady & the BASS - album is almost ready to be released as well.. more news coming soon!

Alberto, thanks for the interview and I wish you every success with your projects !



Equipment

Basses:

- Dingwall ABZ 5 strings, black burst, 2 pc ash body, maple neck, FD3 4-L, passive, Hipshot Bass Xtender
- Elrick Bass Gold Series, E-volution, 6 strings, Aero Pickups, Aguilar OBP3 Electronic. Swamp ash body, maple neck and fingerboard.
- Elrick Bass Platinum Series, Hybrid, E-volution, 5 strings, Xtended B, Bartolini pickups and electronics. Alder body, maple neck, wenge fretboard.

Amplification:

- Aguilar AG 500 Head (dual channel), DB410 cab

Strings:

- Ernie Ball Slinky

Cables:

- Evidence Audio Lyric HG, the Forte

Straps:

- Comfort Strapp

FX etc.:

- Aguilar Tone Hammer, Sonuus B2M and i2M (bass to MIDI converter), MXR M-80 bass pedal, DOD Envelope, Whammy, Korg DTR2000 Tuner

Discography

- Twinspirits - The Music That Will Heal The World (2007)
- Alberto Rigoni – Something Different (2008)
- Twinspirits- The Forbidden City (2008)
- Tommy Ermolli – Step Ahead (2009)
- Lady & the BASS - Quirky Girl (2010)
- Mitheria – Dragon Fire (2010)

Links:

www.albertorigoni.net

<http://www.youtube.com/user/albertorigoni>

www.twitter.com/albertorigoni

www.myspace.com/albertorigoni

www.facebook.com/Alberto-Rigoni

www.ladyandthebass.com

www.twinspirits.net