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PLAY

ROCK & METAL MAGAZINE



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CHAPTER 25 THE NEW POWER FILES

Here's the exclusive code for Powerplay readers: KJ77 (the pass code is case-sensitive and the link will expire at the end of August 2023).

GROUP ONE: HARD ROCK/MELODIC ROCK/ROCK/CLASSIC ROCK/BLUES ROCK

1. Presa – 'Salones de un Criminal'

From the album: 'Presa'
<https://presaofficial.es>

2. Rocket Boy – 'Change'

From the album: 'Resolute'
<https://rocketboyband.com>

3. M&R Rush – 'Good-Bye City Lights'

From the album: 'Good-Bye City Lights'
<https://www.mandrush.com>

4. Rook Road – 'Yonda Glow'

From the album: 'Rook Road'
<https://www.rookroad.com>

5. The Make – 'Hold On'

From the album: 'Up Sessions'
<https://www.themake.rocks>

6. Thrill Ride – 'Never Saw It Coming'

From the album: 'Light In The Dark'
<https://www.facebook.com/ThrillRideMD>

7. Staffan Österman – 'Punch In, Punch Out'

From the single: 'Punch In, Punch Out'
<http://manovermusic.com/staffan>

8. Michael Alan – 'Road To Glory'

From the album: 'Calling'
<https://www.michaelalanofficial.com>

9. Alex Meister – 'It Ain't 'bout Love'

From the album: 'Rock And A Hard Place'
<http://www.alexmeister.com>

10. Rookery Lane – 'Deja Vu'

From the album: 'Reflections Of The Tao'
<https://rookerylane.net>

11. Sweet Rage – 'Sue'

From the album: 'Abian'
<https://linktr.ee/sweetrageband>

12. Distant Sun Rising – 'Surrender'

From the album: 'D. S. R.'
<https://www.r1ml.com/distantSunRising>

13. Crime – 'From My Mind'

From the album: 'Master Of Illusion'
<https://www.crime-band.de>

14. The Wring – 'Stiletto'

From the album: 'Spectra'
<https://thewring.ca>

15. Viitanen & Kirkkala – 'Rock And Roll Train'

From the album: 'From Night Light Till Dawn'
<https://www.facebook.com/ViitanenKirkkala>

16. The Hayley Griffiths Band – 'MELANIE'

From the album: 'MELANIE'
<https://www.hayleygriffiths.com>

17. Deep Town Diva – 'Jager Of Jager'

From the album: 'Royal Flush'
<https://www.facebook.com/deeptowndiva>

18. Calaveras – 'Sick'

From the album: 'Skulls On Fire'
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100049901687543>

19. Wolf Moon – 'Give My Heart'

From the album: 'How Do You See You Yourself'
<https://www.wolfmoonband.co.uk>

20. Celtic Legacy – 'Glen Corr - The Spirit Of The Vagabond'

From the album: 'Redox'
<https://celtic-legacy.com>

21. Wild Heat – 'Long Gone'

From the album: 'Bustle'
<https://www.facebook.com/wildheatband>

22. Midnight Steamer – 'Tokyo Rose'

From the album: 'Shakedown Cruise'
<http://www.facebook.com/MidnightSteamerRock>

23. Damu The Planet – 'By The Way'

From the album: 'Fighting 4 Fun'
<https://damuthetheplanetband.com>

24. Backyard Freaks – 'I Walk Alone'

From the album: 'Dead By Midnight'
<https://www.facebook.com/backyardfreaks>

25. Scarlett Root – 'Call Me Crazy'

From the album: 'Scarlett's Web'
<https://www.scarlettroot.com>

26. M&B Mary Runyan Band – 'Nowhere To Hide'

From the album: 'M&B II'
<https://www.facebook.com/MaryRunyanBand>

27. Joe Robinson – 'Go For The Throat'

From the album: 'My Technology'
<https://joerobinson2.bandcamp.com>

28. Colossal Street Jam – 'Neyt'

From the album: 'No Way To Live'
<https://colossalstreetjam.com>

29. Lucky Mud – 'Money In The Bank'

From the album: 'Keep It Lit'
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100086992293774>

30. Tokyo Tramps – 'Sweet Melody'

From the album: 'Fearless Heart'
<https://www.tokyotramps.com>

31. Mad Painter – 'Illusion'

From the album: 'Splashed'
<http://madpainter.co.uk>

32. Glenn – 'Time'

From the album: 'Inner Sanctum'
<https://www.glenrocks.com>

33. Dead Soul Revival – 'In This Moment'

From the album: 'Ignite'
<https://www.deadsoulrevival.com>

34. The KillerHertz – 'The Deceiver'

From the album: 'Starburst'
<https://www.facebook.com/thekillerhertzband>

35. Black Tongue Reverend – 'All Of Them Have Fangs'

From the album: 'All Of Them Have Fangs'
<https://www.instagram.com/blacktonguereverend/?hl=en-gb>

36. Fearful Symmetry – 'Mood Swings And Roundabouts'

From the album: 'The Difficult Second'
<https://fearfulsymmetry.rocks>

37. Galahad – 'Alive'

From the album: 'The Last Great Adventurer'
<https://www.galahadonline.com>

38. Splink – 'Pins And Noodles'

From the album: 'Kozmosis'
<https://www.splink.band>

39. Ricky Patel – 'The Maw'

From the album: 'Silent Awakening'
<https://rickypatel.bandcamp.com>

40. Godzilla In The Kitchen – 'Everything That Has Been Given'

From the album: 'Exodus'
<https://www.godzillainthekitchen.de>

41. Distance Of Thought – 'Unspoken'

From the album: 'Edge Of Forever'
<https://www.distanceofthought.com>

42. Dominic Sanderson – 'Is There Calm Amongst This Chaos'

From the album: 'Impermanence'
<https://www.facebook.com/dominicsanderson1999>

43. Globus – 'Brothers In Arms'

From the album: 'Cinematica'
<https://www.globusmusic.com>

44. Chris Angels – 'Gods'

From the album: 'Gods'
<https://www.facebook.com/chris.angels.5264>

45. Limite Acque Sicure – 'Sogno D'oriente'

From the album: 'Limite Acque Sicure'
<https://limiteacquesicure.it>

46. Vault – 'Can't Handle The Darkness'

From the album: 'The Perfect Truth'
<https://www.vaultband.com>

Welcome to Chapter 25 of The New Power Files, featuring a whopping 86 new rock and metal songs – free for you to download.

To grab the mp3 files, band info, and Nicky's 'The Music Is Out There' PDF interviews, go to www.powerplaymagazine.co.uk. Click on the Power Files tab and then the link to download the zip file for The New Power Files Chapter 25. Enter the pass code when prompted. It should be straightforward but if you have any problems with downloading the files, give us a call on 0161 3391035. Enjoy the music!

47. Cen-Projekt – 'The Idea'

From the album: 'Big'
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063578736752>

48. Ecratis – 'Bicycle'

From the album: 'The Artificial Spirit'
<https://www.facebook.com/ecratisofficial>

49. Silver Nightmares – 'The Weird Black Cross'

From the album: 'Apocalypsis'
<https://www.facebook.com/italianprogband>

50. Autumn Tears – 'As If We Were Never There'

From the album: 'Guardian Of The Pale'
<https://thecirclemusic.gr/product/autumn-tears>

51. Sanity – 'Seals'

From the album: 'Revelation'
<https://www.sanity.berlin>

52. Lia Hide – 'Wynona'

From the album: 'The Missing Fourth Guest'
<https://www.liahide.com>

53. Mollust – 'Mars - The Game Is Over'

From the album: 'Mother Universe'
<http://www.mollust.com>

54. Echoes of Bronze – 'At the Shores Of Illium'

From the album: 'Illium'
<https://www.facebook.com/people/Echoes-of-Bronze/100082750400313/>

55. Penumbra – 'Sorrow'

From the album: 'Eden'
<https://www.facebook.com/penumbra.band.official>

56. Amethysts – 'A New Dawn'

From the album: 'A New Dawn'
<https://www.facebook.com/amethystsmusic>

57. Botolph Dissidents – 'From Cradle To Urn'

From the album: 'The Back of the Beyond'
<https://www.facebook.com/Botolph-Dissidents-128284383860328>

58. Spitfire Mill – 'Phantom Barrow'

From the album: 'Shadows Phantom's Nightmares'
<https://www.facebook.com/spitfiremetal>

59. Nothing Sacred – 'Guardian'

From the album: 'Leviathan'
<https://www.facebook.com/NothingSacredMetal>

60. Ahhcan – 'Never Bending'

From the album: 'Build & Break'
<https://www.facebook.com/Ahhcan>

61. Voktrot – 'Velocidad'

From the album: 'Speed'
<https://www.facebook.com/Voktrot-100339158611608>

62. Storms Within – 'Loyalty Lies'

From the album: 'Minds Of The Wicked'
<https://stormswithinofficial.com>

63. Antonio Giorgio – 'Gothic Church (Chambers of Gold)'

From the album: 'Imajica'
<https://www.facebook.com/antoniojorgiometal>

64. Neptune – 'Protector'

From the album: 'The Rebirth'
<https://www.neptune.nu>

65. Serpico – 'Riverbanks'

From the album: 'The Chosen Four'
<https://www.serpico-official.com>

66. Serpents Kiss – 'Dragon King'

From the album: 'Dragon King'
<https://www.officialserpentskiss.com>

67. Chrome Sky – 'Greedy Hands'

From the EP: 'Ice God'
<https://www.facebook.com/ChromeSky2016>

68. Loconuerte – 'La Vida Loca'

From the album: 'Los Clasicos De Locos'
<https://www.facebook.com/loconuerteofficial>

69. Deflag – 'Liberation'

From the album: 'Let Us All Unite'
<https://www.facebook.com/deflaggers>

70. Frankor – 'Sky And Soil'

From the album: 'Sky And Soil'
<https://www.facebook.com/FrankorMusic>

71. Ceaseless Torment – 'Killing Commands'

From the album: 'Victory Or Death'
<http://www.ceaselesstorment.com>

72. Zed/Zero – 'Anthem'

From the album: 'Welcome To The Multiverse'
<https://www.zedzero.net>

73. The 40 Thieves – 'My Lunatic'

From the album: 'The White Album'
<https://th40th.com>

74. Andy MK – 'Adventurous Journey (Feat. Luna)'

From the album: 'Demons & Heroes'
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063175632403>

75. Sickred – 'Wretch Man'

From the album: 'This Sick Redemption'
<https://www.facebook.com/SickRed1>

76. Empire – 'Relentless (Radio Edit)'

From the album: 'Relentless'
<https://www.empire.co.uk>

77. Lost Circus – 'Broken Shadow'

From the album: 'Lost Circus'
<https://www.facebook.com/LostCircusUS>

78. Glorious Bankrobbers – 'I'm A Drudge'

From the album: 'Back On The Road'
<https://www.gloriousbankrobbers.com>

79. Mudshark – 'Nonchalance'

From the EP: 'ZIV'
<https://www.mudshark.net>

80. Baldararre – 'You're Wrong (Dead Wrong)'

From the album: 'Grand Boulevard'
<https://www.caribaldararremusic.com>

81. Black Roze – 'Burn It Down'

From the album: 'Penny For Your Sins'
<https://www.blackroze.co.uk>

82. Written By Wolves – 'Give 'em Hell (Alt Version)'

From the single: 'Give 'em Hell'
<https://www.writtenbywolves.com>

83. Asylum Pyre – 'There, I Could Die'

From the album: 'Call Me Inhuman'
<https://www.facebook.com/asylumpyre>

84. Sintoze – 'Midnight Evil'

From the album: 'Paralyzing Chains'
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089607068295>

85. On The Loose – 'Black Evil Dwells In Men'

From the album: 'Dark Emotions'
<https://www.facebook.com/ontheLoose7sins>

86. Eulogy – 'Laudarium'

From the album: 'Rebirth'
<https://www.eulogy-rocks.com>



Band: Distant Sun Rising
Album: D. S. R.
Label: Distant Sun Rising
 Independent Artists, BMI
 Live Artists,
 distribution worldwide
 w/Sony Tunecore
Genre: Metal-Texas Rock



Description:
 D.S.R.'s first full-length album release from Distant Sun Rising. Nine tracks are driven in Melodic Metal, Outlaw Texas Rock, and Blues. Elegant meets wicked, hard driven guitars rope listeners with artfully delivered and buxom riffs. Every song weaves a tale, and the Female Vocalist tells an unforgettable story, unafraid to explain things with power and passion. D.S.R. is a ride across the sky to the rising sun.

Influences for the album:
 Alice in Chains, Cheap Trick, Soundgarden, Led Zeppelin, Iron Maiden, Ella Fitzgerald, Ian Moore, KISS, Motley Crew and a little George Clinton and the Parliament Funkadelic.

Band Line-Up:
 Lead Vocals - Monica Ann Solis
 Guitar - Manuel Riojas Jr. (a.k.a. Meatt)

Guitar and Vocals - Karly 'Sweet' Lopez
 Drums: - Leo Salas
 Bass - 'Metal' Mike Lopez

CD Track Listing:

1. Light the Fires
2. Black Sun
3. Surrender
4. Forever
5. Another Fallen Angel
6. Bottle Neck
7. Angel in Your Bed
8. Shadows
9. Dark and Faded

Hailing from Bexar

County, San Antonio, Texas we find female fronted Metal-Texas Rockers

DISTANT SUN RISING and they have an excellent new nine track album out now called 'D. S. R.' which runs in at just over forty minutes long and is the band's debut release, following a single release called 'Angel In Your Bed'. "There is nothing more beautiful than looking at a Texas sunset no matter where you are in the hill country," smiles lead singer Monica Ann Solis as we hook up for a chat via Zoom. Although its early January, the mild winter has created a heaven on Earth with crisp weather outside. "The light of the sun spills over the treetops, filling the sky with otherworldly colours that make it look like a painting. Sitting in the game room in front of a small movie theatre at the common area lounge located at Monica's home. She as mentioned is the lead singer and backbone.

of the band, but also co-writer and creator of the music for the recording of D.S.R. She smiles, hands me a virtual martini as we chat against the backdrop of a stunning view of the sunset through the windows that surround her. "Everything makes us different," she tells me looking me in the eye. "To begin with our music is not something that is easily put into a box. In fact, we broke the box and created a new one. There is something that appeals to everyone that loves music. I have read song reviews just this week from industry professionals.



It is being said that they normally don't listen to metal, blues, hard rock or anything outside of their preferred genre, however they stayed to listen because the music was written well." Rest assured my dear readers, that when you give a listen to their new album you will understand where this talented lady is coming from, the album flows with energy and passion and not mention a solid

polished production vibe. Monica herself shows a variety of styles, there is indeed something here for everyone.



Take for example the album opening track called '*Light the Fires*', this track is solid melodic guitar fuelled hard rocker with a southern classic retro rock vibe and groove, think along the lines of say Beth Hart, and Orianthi. There's some fine guitar work here from Manuel and Karly, whilst Monica's vocals are gutsy and raw. '*Black Sun*' is another catchy up-tempo track with gritty raw vocals, the song has a feel where you the vibe has a raw nineties Alternative edge with a nod towards the seventies, maybe even a little Tina Turner raspyness in the vocal department, again the production is solid and the whole song has tons of heavy energy and groove.

The electrifying southern slant of '*Surrender*' is another album highlight. It is another punchy energy high octave track with fab vocals from Monica and excellent musicianship throughout, I can actually imagine David Lee Roth doing this song, it's got a similar vibe to Roth's own

'*She's My Machine*.' Vocally Monica puts in some strong Ann Wilson meets Ruby Starr from Black Oak Arkansas. '*Forever*' meanwhile is more melodic and alternative based, the chorus is catchy and gets under your skin, coupled with its Slash style guitar vibes.

The heavy guitar edge '*Another Fallen Angel*' is psychedelic and retro groove based melodic hard rock, where they music and vocals just pull you into the song's charms of delight. Think along the lines of say '*Black Velvet*' from Alannah Myles, that type of groove only heavier, with a more seventies edge, kinda like Alannah jamming with Led Zeppelin with high powered vocals, and I must point out '*Metal*' Mike Lopez' fabulous bass work on this track.

'*Bottle Neck*' is killer catchy guitar fuelled hard rock all the way, southern based and stomping, a little early Heart meets Lynyrd Skynyrd, fabulous guitar work.



'*Angel in Your Bed*' has a sweet melodic charm, its groove based, retro, and very seductive type of track, there certainly is a lot of atmosphere throughout this track.

The guitar edged '*Shadows*' is slick groove based classic hard rock, atmospheric and catchy. '*Dark and Faded*' ends the album, and is one of my favourite tracks, it has got

everything, a highly diverse track, lots of groove, melodic, alternative with a solid guitar vibe, gritty, catchy, and punchy retro hard rock.



There is enough here where even the occasional listener won't realize or believe that there is a lady singing. "I have a very powerful voice and a five and a half octave vocal range. I find it even funnier that they don't realize the girl on the cover of D.S.R is me," she chuckles. "They think it's just an art piece or someone we hired. I created that cover top to bottom, including the photograph and graphics. Keep in mind I am on a shoestring budget. You can hear the influences of prominent artists in our music, like Led Zeppelin and Cheap Trick, however I don't sound like Robert Plant. You can hear the power of Chris Cornell in my vocals or the softness of Ella Fitzgerald, yet its unique. You can hear what has been called Slash like guitar, however the music is nothing like Guns and Roses. One of the most difficult things for an original artist, be it a vocalist, guitar player or

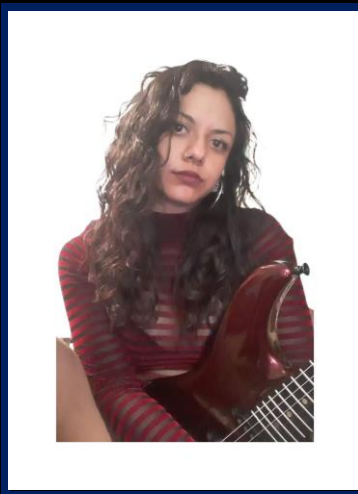
performer is to find their own voice. To be authentic and completely original is something we have achieved as individuals. That most certainly shows in everything we create," she expresses. Monica is bang on with that statement, as each song throughout 'D. S. R.' has her own unique stamp on it, but it's not just this ladies' vocals that are the star of the show here, the whole band are, there is a special chemistry here between each band member, and this comes over in each song.



As you can imagine, music is in this artists DNA. She comes from a family of overachievers and everyone either sings, plays an instrument, and if not several or all of them, are song writers and composers. Her grandmother on her father's side was a vocalist and recording artist, she even sang live on the radio in the nineteen forties. When Monica was four years old her father taught her how to read and write music out of a Willie Nelson song book. She then performed. for the first time a few months later for over five hundred people at a church function. "I was not a shy child and rather took to the stage. I began ballet, jazz, and modern dance lessons at the age of four as well. I studied music every day for one hour with my family

after dinner, seven days a week. I would perform in the local city-wide talent shows and on local cable television," she explains to me.

Later on in third grade she auditioned for one of thirty-two spots, competing against three thousand other children from all over Texas to be a part of the U.T.S.A Children's Choir. "I sang with that acapella choir for six years, performing Latin, German, French and Italian. Learning the violin around the same time, I began writing my own songs. I had all the lead roles in every play and musical all throughout my years in school and performed all over the city as a child. I attended college prep school at Providence High School and made first chair in state choir as a second soprano.



It was my freshman year and I lettered. I remember the singer from Candelbox in state choir that year as well. His band was signed a year later," she says. When she was a teenager, Monica, began volunteering for charities like the American Cancer Society, Cystic Fibrosis foundation and helping to raise money for the Animal Defense League," she enthuses. Monica has also performed for so many functions that

she was approached to compete in the Miss Recreation San Antonio Pageant.



She won that crown and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for charity. A few years later she competed in the Miss San Antonio, Texas beauty padget, taking home the tiara for first runner up and Miss Congeniality. At the age of fourteen she began her first original rock band called Black Cactus with her friend and guitarist John Kindred. "We played all original rock, performing at biggest venues in San Antonio, Texas. After our bass player moved away and We had not replaced him, I was asked to sing in another band. I wrote original Texas Blues Rock, sang, and performed with that group for most of my life. Although we performed all over the state of Texas, had a rather large following and recorded an album, no one in the band really put forth an effort to promote besides myself and it hit a wall. There was something missing from it. Then came a terrible accident for me, a few life-threatening, life changing illnesses

including stomach and ovarian cancer which tried to kill me. I was hospitalized for up to nine months at a time and had to fight my way through that. Every time a doctor told me I was going to die or I would never walk again, my reply was the same. I don't think I like that. How about no. I refuse to except that," she expresses.



Even when the odds were stacked against Monica, she still found her way to the stage. "Be it performing as a special guest downtown on the river walk at Devils River Whisky Distillery, doing a summer tour for three months with members of famed band Molly Hatchet, singing as a premier all over the east coast of the U.S., fundraisers or jam sessions at Fitzgerald's Bar and Live Music Venue. One way or another I'm always being called up on stage. My musical colleagues like to throw me in the fire, knowing I always have a smile on my face and I don't recognize nor acknowledge fear or nervous pressure. For the

many years of fighting to live the one thing that kept me truly alive was the music. It's not just who I was raised to be and who I have been. It is who I am and will always be," she enthuses. Manuel Riojas Jr. (a.k.a. Meatt) had been writing and performing original metal and rock since the early eighties. He has been in bands such as Spinn 66, who was signed to a record label by the same man that signed the Beatles. He has also performed with Grammy winning artists at the Latin Grammy Awards and at the Superbowl Halftime Show. He is a working producer and songwriter that owns a recording studio. Riojas Ranch Recording Studio is located in Bulverde, Texas. "In his work He covers all genres from Rap, Country, Blues, Rock, Metal, Bluegrass, Tejano and Outlaw Music. As a Performer, Meatt plays in several popular bands in Texas, including his own rock and metal tribute band Big Bang," she smiles. "As for Karly 'Sweet' Lopez, our guitarist/vocalist, she is the daughter of a legendary blues drummer and began taking piano lessons at age five. Playing guitar at the age of twelve, growing up around some of the greatest musicians in the world like Stevie Ray Vaughn. Karly is an outstanding musician, not to mention she was also a born artist. She is currently an instructor at the School of Rock, where she teaches sound engineering, drums/percussion, guitar and vocals." It took a long time to write and record 'D.S.R.' and come to terms with this album. In fact, Meatt and Monica, began writing and recording a few of the songs for a movie

soundtrack several years ago. "I was hired as a film score composer for a film named 'The Raven at Rue Morgue.' After I scored the film for full symphony and wrote a hymn book in five languages, I was asked to write and record a few tracks for the official soundtrack. Couldn't say no. Meatt and I teamed up as writers for the task. When hired to interperate a screenplay in music for a soundtrack, one must write the song according to a specific scene, from the viewpoint of the main subject," she points out.



This particular movie was a story about Barbie axe murders, based loosely on the works of Edgar Allen Poe. "It was wicked fun. Take that into consideration when I'm listing the influences for this album: Alice in Chains, Soundgarden, Cheap Trick, Iron Maiden, Ella Fitzgerald, Ian Moore, Led Zeppelin, Kiss, The Tea Party, Mötley Crüe, Alice Cooper and a little bit of George Clinton and the Parliament Funkadelic," she expresses. Meatt and Monica are both cut from the same metal and rock cloth. Granted, this lady may be a bit more adventurous with her love

of death metal, grind core and for her favourite band Avatar. Whilst Meatt is really into Cheap Trick. "What is undeniable in musical form and the calibre of the artists that create our heroes, which is something we are on the same page with. Co-Creating with Meatt is always an easy endeavour. He is a truly kind-hearted, humble and a naturally happy person. Just like I am," she purrs. "Ego isn't an issue and we are both keenly aware that the more out of the box, truthful and authentic the content, the more interesting the music. For the most part, when you're growing up in Texas, in a big rock and roll city, these bands are at the core of us all.



It would be impossible for us to turn on the radio, put it on any station in the eighties up until to today without hearing the bands Judas Priest, Ozzy Osbourne, ZZ Top, Guns and Roses, Eric Clapton, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Red Hot Chili Peppers, AC/DC or any of the bands listed above. Here in Texas these are staples of survival along with Guns, Freedom, and Whisky," she smiles. Everything that Monica does is somehow related to music as a whole. "As far

as I'm concerned everything is tied in one way or another to music. I study sound frequencies, physics, quantum and plasma physics, ancient cultures, their languages, and music. My heritage is Celtic and Norse. We have traced our bloodlines as far as twelve seventy-six Kilkenny, county, Megalithic Ireland, the Faro Islands and Norway. I'm very interested in my Viking heritage as well. I write three to five songs in a normal week. My proclivity for creating music is never-ending, even following me into the dreamworld," she enthuses. "I score entire symphonies while asleep and when I wake up, I must score them out. Happens at least once a month. I also paint, cast orgonite with precious stones and metal, make guitar picks of the same materials. I like to make the to match my friends' guitars and give them as gifts. Oh, I should also mention that I love to passenger on the back of Harleys, or any Motorcycle and that I ride with several Motorcycle clubs. I love going on long biker runs and rallies all over the country, coast to coast. Love to perform at them as well. I'm a bit wild, or so I've been told by many. Honestly, everything is music Nick. At least it is for me," she says with passion.

The band decided to release D.S.R. after it took them almost five years to record it. Their writing process has become more efficient over the years. "Now we just send MIDI files back and forth or a part of a song to be completed. At first Meatt would write the music and I would write the lyrics. He was incredibly patient during the years I fought with cancer and injury. He

never lost hope or faith that I would recover. Too feisty I guess so my family and friends never put me on the 'going to die' list," she says with emotion.

Not even an issue at stage three stomach cancer was this showing Monica's emotional strength, she is an incredibly strong willed and focused woman. The first song they together wrote was 'Light the Fires', and this song had to be written. "I'm a bit of a biker chick," she says with a wink.

"I have the tendency to hop on the back of a Harley after performances. After that Manuel Riojas Jr. Became a writing machine. He wrote the music for several other songs including 'Another Fallen Angel' for the film. We decided to keep the songs as a collection and release them as an album on Tunecore.



When it came to picking the actual tracks, it was taking months of conversation. We still were undecided on the tracks and I became impatient. We just released the album and I am halfway through the next one. I wanted to get the music out be to heard. Each one of those songs went through everything I experienced. And You don't know the half of it. They are pure emotion, real pain, true

stories of passion and love at first sight. Some are told from third person, as a storyteller, while others are songs that speak about all of us. You can hear the Evolution of us all in these songs. The final track we created for this album was 'Surrender'. Meatt played the music for me in the studio. I wrote the lyrics and tracked the entire song in under an hour. I actually dreamt about it several nights before.



Let's call that precognitive songwriting. That happens all the time and did not surprise me. I'm proud of the music and honoured to have made D.S.R. with Manuel Riojas Jr," she says with admiration.

Distant Sun Rising only released a single of 'Angel in Your Bed' a few months before the 'D.S.R.' album. "That track is also on the album since we wanted to release those songs as a collection. I guess I was dipping my toes into the pond by doing that. It's the only slow song on the album, however its powerful. We also created a music video for it, which you can check out on YouTube," she explains to me.

The video was directed by Alejandro R. Torres, a documentary film maker, friend, and colleague of Monica's for many years. "It was fun creating it during the lockdown from San Antonio, Texas to San Francisco, California where he resides. You know releasing an album is

comparable to giving a total stranger your heart, or any organ. You don't know how people will respond to the gesture or how they will react to it."

Technically it took almost five years to record and complete the album. "With several months between the time the music was recorded by Meatt and the time I wrote and tracked the vocals. It was produced by Manuel Riojas Jr. At his studio in Bulverde, Texas," she says.

The song called 'Black Sun' is most certainly Monica's favourite from the album. The song began as an acoustic guitar piece that her brother Marc Andrew Solis wrote. "Marc lives in Austin, Texas and is also an accomplished score composer, songwriter and producer who owns his own recording studio. He sent the piece to me and originally,



I had written lyrics in Old Norse for it. It was so beautiful it made my friend cry when I let her listen to it. That was a problem for

me. For some reason I kept wondering what it would sound like if I told Manuel Riojas Jr. To rock it out. I'm happy I did," she enthuses. "It turned that sad piece of music into an epic metal song that I could literally sing my butt off too. I brought Karly into the studio to sing with me since she would be performing the song live as well.



Music is more powerful in my opinion, when lots of people are creating it. It was a lot of fun a chance to work with my big brother Marc and to bring Karly into the studio.

It was really amazing and I am truly humbled to have the opportunity to work with them all." Monica and Karly have been writing together and they both love the new music. "I have a never-ending cash of music and am halfway through another album. It will be completed and ready for release within four to six months at this rate. It looks like Meatt is retiring from D.S.R. and he will be missed. Fortunately, I have already found just the man for the job.

His name is Scott Norris and he is the lead in a Buckethead tribute band that is about to finish touring. We will be ready for anything within a week.

Personally, I'm ready to take Distant Sun Rising on tour as soon as possible," she says with excitement. "My goal is to be in Europe this time next year, if not sooner. The new music is much heavier and it's going to require a lot of energy. I cannot wait to play it for a large crowd at a festival soon. We are booking festivals now and can travel anywhere. Such as life and the chaos unfolding in the world around us, I believe it is important for us to gather. Not just as small groups to create, but as humanity at large festivals. The size of the crowds in Mexico, Brazil and France is Mind-blowing. I would love to play Wacken festival in Germany anywhere in the Scandinavian countries of Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Denmark. London, Dublin, and Anywhere in Scotland would be a dream I will make come true.



Limitation is not in my nature. I have spoken to fans in these countries and they enjoy the music. Not to mention the live performances will most certainly give them a kick. We already have a bit of a European fan base in all of these countries on our website," she advises. "When you're in a band your bandmates are your

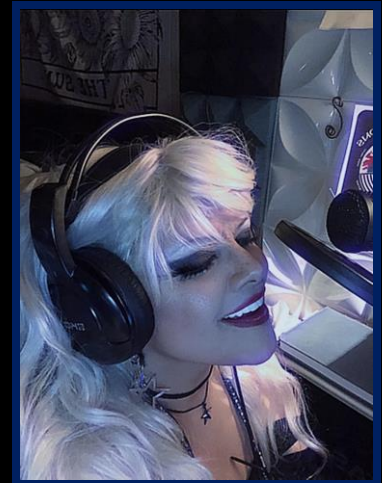
family, your best friends and closest confidants. People you don't mind travelling with and keep no secrets from. Music is not just a job. It's an art form that requires incredible strength, emotionally, physically, and most certainly in character. As Artists we understand that we are a different breed. Thick skin built up from years of abuse, abandonment, unspeakable traumas that most people would not have lived through. Always feeling as if no one will ever understand you has the side effect of creating introverts. Then we realize that music is not just something we enjoy, it's the only way we know how to communicate. Sometimes words are not enough. We are sensitive to everything, telepathic even. How else do you think we communicate on stage without saying a word. We are shy individuals that do not become embarrassed easily and find the stage more comfortable than anywhere else.



We are emotional and it does not matter if we show it or not normally to others or in public. Still waters that run so deep," she tells me.

"We are souls that had to go within and find a way to process our emotions before we could walk. Before we understood what cause, effect and deep conditioning is. Emotions are the jet fuel of manifestation, yet if you don't know what you want in life, those emotions will eat you alive. So, we must

gather and play music. We are those people that are easy to look at. The books that are judged by their covers. We are truly gifted, incredibly kind human beings that hold a high standard for intellectual prowess, demand respect, integrity and are here in service to others. We are do Gooders, messengers of truth, as well as powerful creators.



We are here on Earth to play music, break hearts and to create original things that have never been thought of before. I would do anything to make sure those kinds of people, my people, bandmates, musical colleagues, my family, do not suffer another day. That they had the best life possible and a true shot at happiness.

What I'm saying is I will do everything I can to ensure our success. Somehow, I am going to put us on the road to Europe, to Festivals and do as much good while doing it," she insists.

"Recording and writing has become something that is an everyday event. We have hours of original music; we are astatically adorable with bright eyes and bushy tails. The future looks absolutely brilliant from the eyes of an eternal optimist. We are the creators of all that we experience, manifesters

divine here to build heaven on earth. I am speaking for myself when I say that Fame is not the end goal. We are not standing on stage saying, 'Look at Me.' We are different. People stair at me as if I have ten heads when I walk into a room. Not something you ever become a costume with. I do not seek the spotlight. I am the spotlight. We are not narcissistic individuals that have nothing to offer. I don't believe it is narcissistic to want to be heard and have something to say that will bring comfort or confirmation to complete strangers. Nor to want nice things or simply to enjoy making people smile with something you create. If that means being famous or becoming successful as a band than its semantics.



We are hard workers, dedicated, devoted, and disciplined to our craft. We are lucky, most certainly talented and have something to offer that music industry that is original. Our music will be beneficial to anyone who hears or sees us. I believe we are fortunate and have worked our whole lives to become great musicians and artists. We are all running towards a future that has little guarantee for the safety of our persons. Might as well have the best time we can without breaking the law. I think you will be surprised by the things we will accomplish," concludes Monica, bringing an end to our conversation. Currently D.S.R. is available for digital

distribution worldwide through Sony Tunecore. Which means it's on every digital platform, with hard copy CD's out soon, this is also one album I feel with fully benefit for a vinyl release. Distant Sun Rising, are awesome, every song just slams with energy, watch this space!!!

Web and Social Media Links:

<https://www.n1m.com/distant-sun-rising>
<https://on.soundcloud.com/xKbGu>
<https://music.apple.com/bw/artist/distant-sun-rising/1638694003>
<https://www.tiktok.com/@distant-sun-rising>
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