

Questions by Sean Cruz

How did a bunch of Scandinavians end up in Japan?

We ended up in Japan like this. We were contacted by Tearbridge production through a very handsome American man named Mike Dixon, and they wanted to release our records.

It is all about having good contacts, and to be at the right place at the right moment.



What was going through your mind when you entered the Musik Direkt competition?

Nothing much really, but you had an exciting feeling in your stomach. We just played and luckily won the competition.

What did you do to celebrate after you won?

We got drunk, and then we traveled to Germany and played some shows at the Hannover expo world event, and then we got drunk again.

We didn't have any expectations when we entered the competition, but after winning, we thought, ok we're probably pretty good so it gave us an extra boost and focus on writing more songs.

For someone who's never heard of Staireo before, describe your sound?

Energetic and lovely pop/rock/alternative music.

We use our vocals in a lot of various ways, and we're not afraid of trying out new things. We write music we like and enjoy playing. In general, people want to categorize music and put it in different folders and genres, we don't really put that much attention on that. We just listen to music, if it's good, it's good.

Because we get input from so much different music, you could say that our sound is like everyone else's, but so much better.

What should someone expect if they see you live?

They should expect to see a great band kicking ass.

What is success?

That's a very big question. For us as a band, success is to be able to share our music with as many people as possible who enjoy our music as much as we do.



What has your response been from the Japanese audience?

We had great response with people singing along at our shows and sending us wonderful mails. We are still waiting for some bad response.

When did the band first come together?

In the beginning of the year 2000, but we've known each other for some more years. We all studied (or should have studied) at the same school.

Where does the name "Staireo" come from?

It comes from our drummer's amazing brain.

Your songs have been used in the Japanese version of CSI for the past few seasons, did the Japanese producers come to you, or did you pitch your songs to them?

We don't know. Our label has handled that, but we are very happy and proud about it. Hopefully they will keep using our music. We rarely pitch anything actually.

Question for James, what was it like working with Yoko Kanno on the songs "Blend In" and "Deadly Work" for the "Darker in Black" anime series?

I worked with Yoko for the first time about two years ago for movie called “honey & clover”.

It all happened with short notice, one day I was in Sweden and just a few days later, I stood in Tokyo entering the vocal booth, not knowing what to expect, would the songs be in my vocal range?, how does the melody go? Etc, but it all turned out great!

Yoko is very easy to work with. She is very honest and tells you right away what kind of feeling/ vibe she wants. That’s something I really appreciate.

You also can tell when Yoko’s satisfied with a take, ’cuz that’s when she puts on her big smile!

The recording this time for the songs on “Darker than black”, I felt more comfortable, ’cuz I kinda knew how it would turn out and sound like.

We had a great time during the recording and I hope we’ll do some more projects in the future.

What do you think of “Darker than Black” itself?

We have not seen too much of it. But the things we’ve seen is really cool.

What occupies your time outside of the band?

Music mostly, in various ways, we record and write new music all the time, not only for the band. And we all have different interest, like long walks in the nature; reading, playing on our Playstation.

But we also have part-time jobs, to get some more reality in to our lives.

Who would you like to perform or record songs with?

We all have different icons that we love. So there will be hard to name just one.

I think we all would love to record a song with an artist that would make our music to something totally different. We love trying out new things to evolve.



Who are your musical influences?

To many to be mentioned here, but recently we’ll say our good friends Blackstrap.

Our musical influences changes a lot. The constant thing we love is music that goes directly down to your soul.

What should your fans in Japan look forward to on your upcoming tour?

Hopefully they look forward to see us play and kick ass.

What's the weirdest thing you've ever seen or done while on tour?

We played in Maputo, Mozambique at a big square and apparently our stage swallowed so much power that all buildings around us for several blocks went black. And after the show the audience signed our bodies with their autographs. Kind of weird but really fun.

Does James do all the cooking when you're on the road?

Everyone in the band is strongly connected with cooking and food. On the road we love to try all the food we can not get back home. And that is one of the things we love about Japan, We love the Food!! But to answer your question: No, we've never seen him do any cooking at all. But he is a chef strangely enough.

Between David and Coma, who's the better footballer on Playstation?

We have very different styles in the game. David is more attacking and frenetic in his game while Coma prefers to calm down the tempo and hit more passes. But I would definitely say that me, Coma, is the best.

Here is my (David's) thought about that, Coma is right about me being more attacking and frenetic in my game while Coma prefers to play more passively... But I am the better player, with a lot of variation in offensive, and the ability to play my way through a good defense. I also have a great tight defense that is hard to pass by.

But the thing is that both me and Coma play are best together in the same team, that's what we are doing the most. We complete each other. We have had great careers the past couple of years.

What are your favorite football teams?

Lately there's only one team, and that's Barnet. But in our past, we have had a couple of favorite teams like Greuther Fürth, Man United, W. Bremen, Celtic, Barcelona and many more..

Where's the one place that you'd like to play a live concert at?

At the moon. We are waiting for our record label to arrange that.



Staireo is (from L to R), Coma, James Wendt, David Billings, Sebastian Forslund. Staireo will be touring Japan Nov 19th to 28th. Their 2nd album, Multi De La Tjossa, was released September 19th of this year. For more on Staireo check out their website at <http://www.staireo.com>



 **tearbridge production**