

Mystery novelist heads in a musical direction

“The Silence That Follows” is released

Like most teenagers growing up in the early 1980s, Canadian mystery author John Schlarbaum began collecting records and 45 singles of his favourite rock bands and artists. The most memorable albums usually came in a sleeve with printed lyrics on it, allowing the buyer to sing along word-for-word with the musicians. Now, 13 years after writing his own rock song, Schlarbaum is set to release, “The Silence That Follows”, the debut single of Unfinished Tattoos.

“When I moved to Amherstburg, Ontario, I became friends with several musicians who had played together in bands and as solo acts for years. I figured with the lyrics and melody already established in my head, real musicians could add the music. Unfortunately, that didn’t happen. Also, due to my lack of actual musical talent – yes, I still regret giving up on those piano and guitar lessons – the song remained incomplete.”

2018 was a year Schlarbaum set aside to work on non mystery-based projects, which included writing a play based on a novella he published in 2006. It was around that time he wrote, “The Silence That Follows”, a tune primarily inspired by a Foo Fighters song, but also Cheap Trick and numerous other classic rock bands.

“After finishing the first draft of the *Aging Gracefully Together* play, I figured it was time to get another bucket list item checked off. I first reached out to an accomplished area keyboardist to write the basic piano structure, but he advised me that he heard it more as a guitar / drum song. To save time I used this information to find Magash, a multi-instrumentalist online, who I commissioned to write the entire music track.”

Once armed with the completed track, Schlarbaum asked well known singer/songwriter, Kevin Jarvis, to add vocals. Along with sound engineer, Jason Sieben of Texas Road Studios in Amherstburg, over a few recording sessions they crafted a final version that was officially released on Friday, September 28, 2018.

“I think listeners will like it,” Schlarbaum states. “It’s got a very energetic feel to it and will hopefully keep them singing along.”

As for the band’s name, readers of Schlarbaum’s “P.I. Steve Cassidy Mystery” series may recall that Dawn, Steve’s girlfriend, often mentions her love of the (fictional) band Unfinished Tattoos in the last two novels.

The song can be purchased from iTunes and 30 other online music websites. A video with Schlarbaum’s lyrics in the description can be viewed on YouTube and Soundcloud.

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