



Lincoln Bloomfield Jr  
chats to Steve Swift

Lincoln Bloomfield Jr served as a national security official in five previous US administrations. This is serious stuff. But the band he's in, Kelakos, isn't so serious. Their album might be called *'Hurling Towards Extinction'*, but there's a warm happiness in this music. And there's a reason for that.

"We spent years thinking that no one would ever know about Kelakos and we're just excited that people who know music are talking about it," he explains. "We would even be happy with bad reviews. As the blues song says, if I didn't have bad reviews, I wouldn't have any reviews at all!"

And there have been more than forty years since the band's last music together.

"I thought that my musical history would sort of fade away. I was drawn back into it when I was in the government in Washington. The Hungarian ambassador grew up behind the iron curtain and apparently became fanatical about the forbidden music coming from Britain mostly. Times change: the Berlin Wall fell, he became ambassador to NATO and said 'I'm forming a band' and he wanted to get me! I said 'no, way too old for that.' We were in our twenties when we were raving out as a rock band. It just seemed not a good idea for a bunch of older men to get on stage who are amateurs, even though they may be famous diplomats. And another guy said 'you have to do this. I know you record and play bass, and Skunk Baxter is going to be in the band.' That's preposterous – Steely Dan, The Doobie Brothers, I idolised Skunk Baxter. So, Skunk Baxter showed up at a restaurant with his beret and his handlebar moustache, and he is also consulting for the intelligence community – he's a patriot, he wants to keep America safe, and he was determined to

help. He said 'if I'm in a band, I'm in.' That changed my life."

Back playing certainly, but that's still a long way from Kelakos and a new album.

"We played charity concerts starting in 2003 and it became kind of a thing in Washington. The Secretary of State would stand in with our band, so I got back into it," Lincoln says, pretty nonchalantly. "And in 2013 our drummer Carl Canedy discovered the studio tapes of our catalogue from 1970s and Skunk had pushed me to get Pro Tools – I was trying to record my own music, and then along came the Kelakos catalogue which we've reissued, which was totally remixed and remastered in 2015, and we got some reviews, so we said let's try some new music. We didn't have a plan, we just did one song and then another and then another and kept going, and at some point we knew it was going to be an album."

And what an album, so easy to be with, warm and wonderful.

"That is one of the most wonderful comments I've ever heard, Steve. The reason that we went our own way and the reason the first album was hard to sell in LA and New York was that we thought we could do our own version of The Beatles' *'White Album'*," Lincoln chuckles. "And we did, we had violins, horns, grand piano; the industry wants you to have a brand."

And that's not what Kelakos is about; they do it the way they want, and the juxtaposition of sweet music and hard lyrics underlines it.

"We have very dark humour, we tend to speak in drastic terms, so *'Hurling Towards Extinction'*, we wanted something that had power to it and shock value. I've spent my whole life trying to prevent

war and now I'm involved in environmental and sustainability non profit, so you see those themes."

You also see, and hear, that this band doesn't really need the business, and that confidence brings freshness to their music.

"I can't tell you how much it means to hear you say that. I'm waiting for people like you to listen and give us reactions. We came at each song from a personal level – the fact that I had the studio and there was no clock ticking, no one counting dollars, there was no bill being run up; we remember that very well from the first album, a lot of pressure 'cos we'd borrowed money, we were desperate to do it our way. This time we did it for us. We didn't know it was going to be an album. We didn't think about it in a business sense, we thought about it purely as legacy of music from us."

And it would be rude not to ask if we might expect more music.

"We have a new rule all of a sudden, which is never say never about anything. I won't be surprised if we put more music together. I will be a little surprised if it's possible to pull everyone together and rehearse and perform shows. We've already been asked and we're not saying flat no to anything, because we're excited by the reaction."

And that reaction will surely continue as long as they do it for themselves.

"You've unpacked the real story behind the band just by listening to the music; if you get that spirit from it, that's because it's true."

And that can be heard in the music, that calm, fun, warm virtual hand around the shoulder. These are men who have lived a life and have a lot more to live yet.



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# POWER PLAY ER

## ROCK & METAL MAGAZINE



# Blackberry Smoke

"The twelve-year-old me  
would be freaked out"  
says Charlie Starr

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# POWER CUTS

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ROCK CITY MACHINE COMPANY, BODY GUERRA, WARREN HAYNES, LIL LOTUS, COLD IN BERLIN, CRYPTOSIS, TUBEFREEKS, SAGES, ALMOST HONEST, BROADSIDE, UKANOSE, DOWNSHIFT, SCANNER, ANCASTER, IMPELLITERI, RED REIGN, ESCAPE FROM WONDERLAND, ACIDSITTER, ORDAHLIA NERA, SCANNER, FELLAHIN FALL, MEAN GREEN, TRICK OR TREAT, MEGA COLOSSUS, SAY IT, RAGE BEHIND, NIGHTHAWK, CYAN, COVEN JAPAN, OPETH, THESE FOUNDATIONS, PRISONER, CREEDANCE CLEARWATER REVIVAL, TRIBUTE, SOLITARY SABRED, GRAVE DIGGER, MOURN THE LIGHT/HIGH PRIEST/ICE, HOWL/ARCHDRUID, TENSIDE, CREATE ILLUSIONS, SVARTNATT, LOS KREW, MASTERPLAN, ISOSPIN, ETE, MEAN TO YOU, TRIGGER MAFIA, PARALINE, PERSEFONE, BREED, AVI ROSENFIELD, XEPHYR, CALINE TRIO, WHERE OCEANS BURN, SEVENTH SON, ARTILLERY, LAD IN TEARS, VALHALLA AWAITS, DEAD ALRIGHT, PSYCHEWORK, PROFILER, DAEMON GREY, GRAND, HEART LINE, AUTUMN'S CHILD, ON HERTZEN BROTHERS, TAKIDA, CHOWARD, VANIR, ZAKK SABBATH, BOKASSA, SYMPHONY TOWERS, MORELINE, CRITICAL HEARTBEAT, LBIAN ROSE, THE YOUNG HEARTS, ANTICORA, LIONHEART, SPIRITBOX, TRAGIK, CORVUS, LAST WORLD, DREAM DROP, THE DEVILS, OTURNALL, JOB FOR A COWBOY, SONS OF LIBERTY, MOTIONAL SUICIDE, CROSSFIRE, IDASLET, MIND DRILLER, KING AS AN OCEAN, ILLUMISHADE, THE BLACK CROWES, BERNIE TORME, WAIRE, OVERLORDE, FARGO, MALEVOLENT, ANDROMIDA, LAZARUS DREAM, THORIUM, SWARF DAMAGE, SLOPE, MASSIVE WAGONS, STRAL EXPERIENCE, RIFFORIA, TORIOUS, KINGS WINTER, RIOT V.

# POWER PLAY

## ROCK & METAL MAGAZINE

# HIGHLIGHTS FOR FEBRUARY

## ON THE COVER

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Charlie Starr chats to us about Blackberry Smoke's fantastic eighth album 'Be Right Here', arguably their best with its organic sound from being recorded with the whole band playing together in one room. "Sometimes if I look at my phone and see whose phone numbers are in there," says Charlie reflecting on the band's success, "it's like what the fuck? How did I wind up with his phone number? The twelve-year-old me would be freaked out."



## HOT THIS MONTH

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All-girl supergroup Exit Eden return with their second album and this time it is a mixture of covers and original material (p16), Myrath singer Zaher Zorgati pleads with the world to end the wars (p10), and The Gems tell us how three former Thundermother members came together to form a new band (p6). We also talk to tAKiDA (p13), Lucifer (p12), Caligula's Horse (p8), Profiler (p9), South Of Salem (p7), Illumishade (p14), Slope (p19), Kelakos (p21), Ordahlia Nera (p22), The Survival Code (p15), Promethium (p18), and Goaten (p20).



## POWERED UP

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Greta Van Fleet, Halestorm, Marillion, Black Veil Brides, Corey Taylor, Foghat, Dragonforce, Amaranthe, The Almighty, Lorna Shore, Deathstars, Oxymorrons, Nanowar Of Steel, Balaam & The Angel, Rivers Of Nihil, Death Cult, Jared James Nichols, Dewolf, Priest, Liv Sin, Brother Cane, Shane Smith And The Saints, Hawklords, Mothica, Mt. Joy, Hannah Wicklund, Ingested, Stone Horses, Silveroller, Lili Refrain, Distant.

## REGULARS

