

Six By Six – Beyond Shadowland – Album, Song & Artwork Notes

A. Album Notes

Six By Six's second album *Beyond Shadowland* is a body of work whose songs are at times about cause and other times about effect. It's the result of the members committing 110% of their professional talents to the band and striving to achieve the kind of artistry worthy of their second release.

Sonically the album represents a conscious effort to message the harder edge at the top of the three musicians' parameters while not leaving behind the subtleties that fans also loved about the first album.

The songs break down into a statement of why and how to move civilization forward without losing the compass provided by the past.

Robert Berry states:

"We had fallen into a perfectionist trap. Album two had to be big and we only had one chance for the perfect follow-up to our debut album. *Beyond Shadowland* had to be something that would resonate with every single fan we had already gathered and also capture new fans.

"It was hard to write under that kind of self-imposed pressure. In fact it was almost impossible to get started. So many times an artist I'm working with has asked me how I manage to write so much music. My explanation is that it's often easier to fix an idea than to get one.

"Well, there it was. My own pep talk pointed right back at me. I grabbed one of Ian's great guitar riffs and wrote a song with placeholder words. Damn, if it didn't just flow out ready to be "fixed". I sent it to Ian and Nigel and they said 'it's not as good as album one's material', so I gave Ian my pep talk. 'It's easier to fix an idea than to get one. Play something on it and we can work from there'.

"If you already know Ian's guitar playing at all, you know that what he creates is genius. That initial song for *Beyond Shadowland* magically developed into a great track. I fixed up the lyrics and we had our first song.

"Next, it was onto an idea that Nigel had given me. When I first did a rough demo of *Titans* I thought, nope this won't fly. But again after batting it back and forth a bit we all agreed that song number two was ready to record. Those first two songs then ignited the ideas for all of the album and we were on a roll."

B. Song Notes

1. WREN, the name of a bird, is about cherishing what you've learned while all the while taking chances navigating life and having fun doing it.

2. THE ARMS OF A WORD reflects on the division driven mostly by a click bait driven media. The pain inflicted every day by the news, trying to draw us into viewing or reading their publication is crippling the world. If people would only believe what they believed when they hear the words right from the source.

3. ONLY YOU CAN DECIDE is a song about finding yourself, finding your strengths, reaching your goals. The secret is to take the first step, but it can be a very hard first step to take. To be the person you dream you can be - only you can decide on how to achieve that.

4. SYMPATHISE Sympathy is an interesting quality. There is the caring and attentive side to it and then there is the pity side. I find both qualities are helpful in being a good soul with a good heart. There are some people that can't get past the error of their ways and they need both instances.

5. CAN'T LIVE LIKE THIS is the meeting place between the mind and the heart. The past may seem like it holds the answers but you never have to accept what is flawed. Don't blindly follow traditions. Follow your intuition.

6. OBILIEX To leave it all behind is sometimes the only way out. This song sprung from a curiosity about floating through space to a new destination. A new home. A new way of life. It may be our only solution someday.

7. SPECTRE Opinions are a strange thing. Some base their opinions on fact, some on experiences, others on fiction. Wherever they come from, opinions build the foundation of who we are. The one odd thing about an opinion though is that it's rare when there isn't two sides to the story.

8. TITANS is the identification of strong people all around us. They might be the silent warriors waiting to rise up and defend the world, but they are there. They are the inventors, the businessmen, the school teachers. They silently lead, influence, and they flourish. They may be the ones that ignore the rules. But one thing is for sure: they will accomplish what they set out to do.

9. ONE STEP was written about a guy who really let me down. I had this guy all wrong. What I thought he was turned out to be the exact opposite of what he actually was. The real tragedy is in the wasted time and lost future. There's very few people you meet in life where the bond is made and it follows through the years. Then all of a sudden the trust is broken and the time just disappears. Such a shame.

10. OUTSIDE LOOKING IN Have you ever thought about how others see you? Not just your visual being or your personality, but the real you. The total package. Do they see the person you think you are, or a different you that you haven't seen? Everybody is a different person to each person they know. No two people see us from the outside the same.

11. THE MISSION is a song about hopes and dreams. We all have them but some seem to get closer at achieving them than others. You can manifest those dreams with a positive view point, some dedicated planning, and hard work. The key is to unlock the power in you.

C. Artwork Notes

For the cover art for Beyond Shadowland, Six By Six turned once again to Rob Fowler, who provided the striking artwork for the band's debut album.

Rob comments:

"The inspiration for the cover art for Beyond Shadowland actually came from a walk with my three dogs into the steep hills near our home. As they like to do, the beasts dragged me through the

shadowy grove of trees into a deep canyon where slender jagged volcanic rocks, eroded by time, wind and water, reach toward the sky like tapering blades of stone.

“At one point, surrounded by these weird spires, the dogs lurched skyward, relentlessly barking at a gracefully circling hawk. I looked up. I saw the hawk, but I also caught a fleeting glimpse of a small airplane high above.

“I hadn’t been thinking of the cover at the time. Mostly I was trying to keep up with my enthusiastic pack of friends. But when we finally made it home and I caught my breath, my thoughts returned to work. I hoped for something visually compelling without dragons, skulls or swords, so I imagined the band in motion moving forward into new territories. Moving from the trees and motorcycle of the first cover to the rocky spires and funky aircraft made sense at the time!”