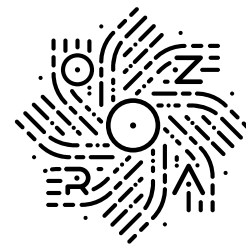


The Ozorian Prophet



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MESSAGE

TURNING POINT

Change is life, life is change. We can't really prepare for the changes we face in life but we can choose the way we handle them.

Our world is in the midst of a great transformation, our awareness is broadening rapidly, and our values are challenged by the shared knowledge of the entire human race. This shift in our global consciousness can cause shock, disagreement and conflict but it is hopefully paving the road to a more enlightened future. However, questions still arise. Are we at a turning point now? Can human society as a whole, raise to a higher level of living by changing its attitude? We can't be sure what the future holds but history tells us that by sharing and helping each other we can accomplish anything...

Our gathering went through great changes in the last 15 years and so did we as individuals. What always kept us in motion remained the same: our love for the psytrance culture

and our dream to bring it to more and more people. It has the ability to transform young minds, create connections and compassion by showing that under all those layers of culture, tradition and belief, we are fundamentally the same. For many of us, the week we spend together in our magical Ozorian reality marks the beginning of a new year – it is a time when we fill our hearts with love and vitality for another orbit around the Sun. It so happens that the Opening Ceremony will be held on 20.07.2020. with a special surprise: the New Moon at 19:32 that exact day.

The New Moon is the primary phase of the lunar month and it occurs the moment when the Sun and Moon are aligned, with the Sun and Earth on opposite sides of the Moon. This instant has a strong spiritual meaning everywhere; the symbol of a new beginning.

The Moon doesn't have its own light, it shines by reflecting sunlight - this makes me

think of how our perception of the world can be very subjective, and our views are formed by the things that happen to us. We often simply reflect what we learn and this is only a slice of reality. That is why it's so important to step outside our "normal" lives and collect experiences that differ from the ones we are familiar with.

The New Moon in Cancer (in July) is described in astrology as your feeling of safety related to your home and family. You may be prone to emotional fluctuations; you should learn to forgive and forget in order to avoid depression from thinking too much about things. Due to your rich emotional manifestation, you can create a real sense of belonging in the world.

This is everything I wish for all of us for this year's gathering: a deep, calming feeling of belonging, peace of mind, and faith in a new beginning with each other.

by Pony

MESSAGE

Moment of Change

Throw an apple in the air, and watch it... There is a fracture of a second when the apple stops in the air and changes direction. Just like if we imagine jumping on a trampoline and you can feel the thrill of that particular moment. You would still elevate yourself when your body already respects the call of gravity. It feels like the moment of open potentialities. The moment where you can ignite any sort of new visions... The moment to dream a new direction of a rebooted reality.

We are in a pinnacle moment these years, when we can consciously choose new directions.

Humankind uses all kinds of ceremonies, substances and methods to get to a point of a new perspective... a perspective that is not just

needed .. but inevitably the only sane choice.

Dream of a new society where we had forgotten the role of being the abused or abusers... where all that is taken away is given back and nurtured... and the supercharged race for the mindset of being disconnected/connected is not part of our daily reality...

After 150 000 years... our most significant achievement is the capability of telling stories, and through these to manifest new dreams and directions. It's time to tell a different legend... a legend of the turning of the tides... the story of a turning point... it all starts with us... dreaming and adding all of our personal dreams into the common, new paradigm.

by Marton Naray

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THE PROPHET: - OLRAJT -

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: - NOVISHARI -

SUPERVISOR: WEGHA ANDERE

LAYOUT: ROBOT

CONTRIBUTORS: PONY, NEDDA NEMETH,

MARTON NARAY, SUZI WONKA

PHOTOGRAPHERS: GERGELY SOMOGYI,

PAWEL WIELOCH, PETER SZOKE,

RENODEYN CHRISTOPHE, SASHA HIPPIE

KOALA, GABOR HADRON ORCHESTRA

WEBSITE: OZORIANPROPHET.EU

EMAIL: MESSAGE@OZORIANPROPHET.

EU, INFO@OZORIANPROPHET.EU



photo by Gergely Somogyi

STARDVICE

AMPLIFIED NEW MOON
LET’S GET STARTED!



The Pisces New Moon on February 23 brings us opportunities to develop ourselves and reach our full potential. Let’s start the new cycle with courage and with the fortune and power of this transit!

This New Moon energy is supported by many helpful aspects. It is happening at the midpoint of Mars trine Uranus, which gives the fuel to this transit. A sextile to Mars is encouraging and increasing our strength and vitality. The fixed star Fomalhaut is also in the picture, forming a neat triangle. This influence strongly helps us in reaching our goals, and let a really transforming new cycle begin. ‘Material’ can be converted to ‘spiritual’ now.

The Aquarius Sun motivated us to seek innovation instead of convention. Our perception is changing (continuously) and we are transforming into something new. This New Moon and the Sun’s new home is in the Zodiac Pisces since February 19. This transit makes us put our world in soft focus until March 20. Pisces is a mutable water sign. It is emotional and flexible, helping us see the world in multi-colour shades, instead of black and white. It is a very emotional time though, when it’s time to let our intuition, compassion and imagination lead the way. Pisces analogies are: selfless love, wisdom, empathy, but on lower levels it can indicate a feeling of self-pity, passivity and being too emotional.

Mercury turned retrograde on February 18, which will last until March 9. This is a period of “slow down, think twice”, especially in the areas of technology, communication, travel, logic, and information. It can also shake you up, but if we are conscious about it, we can use it wisely. Just listen to your intuition and observe a bit before acting. There is a chance to feel an inner conflict between our thoughts and feelings, mind and heart, which can lead to anxiety, indecision or moodiness. The “past” can show up again – people, situations can re-enter our lives, just to clear up the picture.

This week we also have several planets in Capricorn: Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Pluto and Waning Crescent Moon for 3 days until Feb 21, and three in Pisces: Sun, Mercury and Neptune. This stellium focuses the energies extremely impressively. Pisces influences us by making us leave our routines and comfort zone for something new and extraordinary. Capricorn helps us structure, consolidate and settle things. From this point of view, we are supported and even motivated to bring the spiritual into a material form. And all this together is helping us fix and build our new realm, which we already started forming in the past year.

We cannot talk enough about the Saturn-Pluto meeting and effects this year. This transit also gives a push to the building of our new order. If you want to re-check this influence, go here: <https://ozorianprophet.eu/astrology/the-affair-of-the-lord-of-time-and-the-lord-of-the-underworld/>

The planet of love, relationships and wealth, Venus is in Aries from February 7 - March 4. Aries influence makes love spontaneous and direct. We love to chase and seduce during these times. We feel much bolder and fresher. Just avoid being too impatient, and do not forget that Sun is also moving into this zodiac sign soon, and we can finally come out from our caves when Spring is here. Until then, just go with the flow, let go and let it happen!

by Nedda Magic Advisor

THE PROPHET ANSWERS

“Hi, I’m a big fan of the ozora festival since it was the first psychedelic gathering I went to and it really added fuel to the flame, that is, the psytrance energy that at that time was already growing inside me. Anyways, do you wonderful people happen to know who founded the ozora and who runs it now? Because I’ve heard lots of different stories all across the scene, most of them link the same people, Sun and Ozora. But I’d love to know what and if anything did go down. I hope to hear from you even if it’s just a sorry can’t help, I hope you have an amazing week.

Cheers, Luc”

This is a letter that eventually arrived in the Prophet’s mailbox, and since we’d love to encourage dialogue, though we have no sense of actual time, here’s a belated answer to Luc’s question:

Sorry, can’t help. Just kidding:)

The first psychedelic gathering on today’s festival grounds, part of the Zimányi family’s estate, was held in 1999, the legendary Solipse Festival (August 9-15). German party organizer, namedly Fish, chose Hungary for his upcoming solar eclipse festival location due to the good visibility of the August 11th phenomenon from the area, and stumbled upon the territory by chance in his search of the deep countryside. (The Main Stage has been in the same place ever since! There was also an ambient tent and the first Pumpui too! ‘99 lineup highlights: Electric Universe, Etnica, Highlight Tribe, Star Sounds Orchestra, S.U.N. Project, Total Eclipse, X-Dream...)

Five years later, the landowner, Daniel Zimanyi, decides to recreate the 1999 event, but as head organizer, teaming up with several (goa trance) party organizers as artistic directors, and the so-called Sonar Plexus Festival takes place in 2004 (August 10-15), again headlining goa trance music, but also featuring local artists next to greats like Astral Projection, for example. The festival is held the following year too, renamed O.Z.O.R.A. (Organic Zones of Radiant Atmosphere), and every year since 2005.

In 2011 the core organizing team split from the festival due to management-related differences, and went on to create S.U.N. Festival, while a new team continued organizing OZORA with the Zimányi family from 2012. Members of both teams belong to the same psytrance scene and family, and have been shaping it together since its beginning in the 90’s, including party promoters and DJs present at the same and each other’s events throughout the year.

Hope you have an amazing week too!

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS (:OR KNOW THE ANSWERS:) ABOUT ‘LIFE, THE UNIVERSE, AND EVERYTHING’,
WRITE TO US AT: MESSAGE@OZORIANPROPHET.EU
THE PROPHET MIGHT KNOW THE ANSWER, BUT IF NOT, SOMEBODY OUT THERE WILL.



photo by Peter Szolte

FYI

2020 IS LEAP YEAR!



photo by Sasha Hippie Koala

The year in which there’s a Leap Day, an extra day added to the month of February (2/29) on the solar calendar, is a Leap Year. It comes every four years, except when a year ends with “00” that cannot be divided by 400. Leap years keep the calendar year consistent with the seasonal year – the earth’s annual orbit around the sun every 365 and about ¼ days (instead of 365 exactly). Were it not for leap years, the seasons would start a day earlier on the calendar every four years, and eventually, after 360 years, spring would begin on December 21, instead of March 21.

by Sasha Hippie Koala

THE BATTLE OF OZORA



During the 1848 Revolution after the Battle of Pákozd, Croatian Ban Jelačić got such a scare that he ran all the way home, forgetting to tell his 9000-strong reserve troops that the fight was off. When they eventually got the picture, their vanguard falling in battle against both Mór Perczel and Artúr Görgey, with the revolution raging behind their backs, they too finally headed home. On October 6 they reached Ozora where they found the Sió Canal bridge burnt to the ground, the national guard and territorial army led by Vilmos Csapó waiting for them on the other side, making a lot of noise to trick them into thinking they were outnumbered. The miffed, exhausted army didn’t even attempt to cross the river, they set up camp for the night, and when Perczel and Görgey arrived the next day, the battle was over – without any bloodshed, what’s more. Plus, this is when the Hungarian troops took the most prisoners during the entire War of Independence, who were marched to the border after their surrender and made to vow never to attack Hungary again. I really like this analogy, that we won by Making Some Noise:)

by Suzi Wonka

OZORART

Blue Dreams from Ozora – One Day of Mirador

The One Day in party series of the season kicked off in Japan again but with an extra visionary twist this year. The Prophet talked with NEKO, head of the O.Z.O.R.A. art department, about the first-ever Mirador exhibition at any One Day event ever, how it went down, and what the future holds...

T.O.P: You really packed this edition of One Day in Tokyo with artistic content. Besides our Ozorian “Yeah!-san” photographer, Magu Sumita’s photo exhibition, you also introduced some of the visionaries whose artworks have graced the festival’s Mirador art space to the Japanese psy family. You selected the artworks together with Yuki Ohira, inspired by the theme of “Blue Dream’... What else did you keep in mind when compiling the selection?

NEKO: We wanted to share a fine selection of the artists who have already been present at the festival, with the visitors of One Day in Tokyo. The idea was to reconstruct a mini version of Mirador, the art exhibition space at OZORA.

T.O.P: What is for you “characteristically visionary” in artworks you chose? What makes an artwork visionary, first of all, and what role can visionary art play in general?

NEKO: The fine details that create an inviting story with which one has to spend time with to read into it. This very story is the trip into the artist's vision. These visions can carry important messages and a possible enlightenment through the experiences of the artist. It's a safe way to reach some altered dimensions.

T.O.P: Would you say the exhibition was successful? Feedback, future plans?

NEKO: Absolutely. The gallery was usually buzzing during the event and people even spent longer time here, as well as returned over and over again to enjoy the art space, the mini Mirador. It was easy to imagine this cultural addition to any future music event at any such venue. But let's hope for now that we can continue with the gallery at the next One

Day in Tokyo party and make it a tradition.

T.O.P: How would you develop this project for a second occasion?

NEKO: I would love to create a more natural look to it and maybe making it a bit bigger would be nice too. That would also mean more artworks and more live artists. (We had one live painting now, Dorka Jakocs who painted the Dome). But most importantly I wish to involve the local visionary and psychedelic artists and their works more.

T.O.P: Can you imagine this working so successfully at all One Day in events and venues?

NEKO: I'm sure people would appreciate spending some time among wonderful visions, in between checking out dancefloors. In certain states this may become the best experience of the whole night.

T.O.P: Other ways Ozora can show and share its artistic side at venues and events outside the festival...?

NEKO: There was a precedent for it in Pécs last summer. O. Z. O. R. A. created an arts-crafts-music garden within the Night of the Museums program. I can imagine running into similar collaborations in the future as well.

T.O.P: How can such a trend -- such visionary exhibitions at parties too -- shape our psy party culture?

NEKO: These exhibitions should create “safe shortcuts” for reaching certain altered spaces and dreamy or even scary worlds of visions. It is a safe way to travel in other dimensions or at least a safe peak through a “window” into that other world. People have to calm down and take time to really enjoy these visionary galleries and once experienced, the full pleasure of tripping on it (with or without), they may change their party habits and will go a bit more ‘shanti’ from then on.

RANDAL ROBERTS : HOKUSAI - THE GREAT WAVE (ONE OF THE ARTWORKS SHOWN AT THE MINI MIRADOR AT ONE DAY IN TOKYO.)

“LIFE APPEARS TO BE MADE UP OF A TRULY OVERWHELMING GRID OF GIFTS, AND EACH ONE INCREASES IN ELEGANCE AND DETAIL THE CLOSER WE LOOK. UPON REFLECTION, THE ONLY APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO THESE GIFTS SEEMS TO BE GRATITUDE. I TRY TO MAKE ART ABOUT THAT.” – RANDAL ROBERTS



MUSIC

One Day in Tbilisi – Connecting with the Psy Family from Georgia

This Friday on February 28 we're expanding the psy frontiers in 'One Day in' history with One Day in Tbilisi, Georgia. We asked promoter-artist duo, Marcus and David of ACIDWAVE and TREEBAL, to introduce themselves and this exciting scene we don't yet know much about.

Hello, dear Ozorians and worldwide psytrance culture supporters. We are Marcuss and David, longtime friends, founders of the Georgian psychedelic family, organization, promoter, label and community - TREEBAL, and also members of duo project - ACIDWAVE.

– How did you guys meet, start bringing psychedelic music to Tbilisi? This is your 4th anniversary. What are the important milestones for you in these past years? What motivates, inspires you?

– First of all, a bit of information about our country - Georgia. It's a little country with our unique language, alphabet, personality and history. Where the beauties of nature meet in all seasons.

As for the music itself, it is a big part of the nation, the electronic music scene also started development in the last 10 years. During this time there were some in-house psytrance activities for a very limited number of people, but everything started around 5 years ago, when the idea came to bring this magic culture and music to our

country... So the TREEBAL project was launched and the first public event was announced. Our mission is to create moments and places for spreading unity, freedom, art and music to the people. This is our 4th Anniversary and a big milestone for the Georgian psychedelic scene because we are collaborating with one of the most iconic festivals in the world, OZORA. We've hosted more than 20 memorable and massive event series and festivals during this period. All the big names and artists have been with us during this period and we created unforgettable moments of unity with all our community. We have launched the first-ever Georgian psytrance label - TREEBAL RECORDS, and released the first massive compilation album with famous artists like Ital, Imaginarium, Hypnoise, Middle Mode, Spinal Fusion and others...

Inspiration and motivation is the most important thing for creating and doing something. All these happy faces, emotions, united dance moves and energy like a bonfire gives us reason to continue and grow all of this for this region and connect with all the others around the world with our positive vibes. We share our experience and create something special for everyone with everyone.

– How did you get involved with Ozora Festival?

– Life's is a tricky thing, if you are



searching for something, which is the real you, which gives you opportunity to feel yourself deeply and discover the secrets of something unseen, then we would say that it's the psychedelic scene and a highlight of this is Ozora Festival. First attendance was in 2013, and it was life-changing, in terms of the whole idea and concept and that you are the real you there, sharing yourself, your soul, your ideas and your emotions and connecting with all the people around who have one goal, to experience life and things around it in a totally different beautiful reality.

– About the music scene in Georgia... and Khidi:

– The music scene in Georgia is as mentioned above. Nowadays Tbilisi is one of the best destinations for electronic music lovers from all around the world. It's one of the centers of the techno scene and we are putting ourselves on the map of the psytrance scene. There are many big and popular clubs in Tbilisi, which we have collaborated with, and beautiful nature all around for outdoor festivals. As it's a winter time here, we decided to organize a One Day Ozora series in one of the most popular clubs, Khidi, and this is the first time ever a TREEBAL event is being held there.

– The One Day in Tbilisi program is super, but if you could add one or two names of your, totally wild,

limitless choice, to the lineup of the party, who would it be?

– We would definitely add two living legends: Raja Ram and Simon Posford!

– Who would you highlight from the lineup (Astrix is a top name, who else is a top artist for you)?

– We would highlight Goa Jonas, with his interesting biography. There are high expectations from the local psytrance listeners for his performance, as it's his first time in Georgia.

– What do you think is the message or role of psytrance culture, if any?

– “Peace, Love, Freedom, Tolerance, Unity, Harmony, Expression, Responsibility, Respect” - Remember we are all on the same frequency!

– What are you working on, looking forward to the most?

– Currently, we are planning our festival, which will take place in Georgia, in the summer of 2021 and all other details we will keep secret and will announce them time by time. We are also working on several open-air parties this summer and from September we are relaunching the indoor event series. As Acidwave, we are working on music production and planning to release the first Acidwave EP on Treebal Records.



MUSIC

SHPONGLE STATIC

One of the Dome-busters last summer was Shpongle Static, the duo of pioneering legends, Simon Shpongle Posford and Merv Eat Static Pepler who put their creative minds, and eons of sonic explorations, together for another one of those only-at-Ozora kind of collaborative fusion performances. The project was fated to be a success, to say the least, and even if you were not there in person for their Ozorian debut, lucky you – they released the Shpongle Static: Live in the Dome 2019 album at the end of January 2020. The Prophet wanted to mark the occasion with some Q&A with veteran Ozorian and fellow psylien, our one and only Merv.



T.O.P: When did you guys meet with Simon Posford?

Merv: I cannot remember when we met! Too long ago... I'd guess sometime in the mid 90s and I would guess it was somewhere like The Glade stage at Glastonbury festival 'cos I remember seeing this scrawny guy (with hair!) playing before me as I was also playing an Eat Static show... I remember Simon telling me he was a huge fan of my other band "Ozric Tentacles".

T.O.P: Best memory together?

Merv: Probably one of the best memories was when we were recording the track "Balloon Dance" for the Metal Sharon album... I was stood on his landing at his house squeezing and rubbing and screaming into real balloons, just at the moment his girlfriend wandered out of the bedroom wondering what the fuck all the weird noises were while she tried to sleep!

T.O.P: What would you bring back from the past?

Merv: Most of the past comes back around anyway... analogue synths/modulars... who would have thought that, eh? I'd bring back some decent film directors to get some decent Sci Fi movies made again... minus CGI!

T.O.P: The last goosebumps you remember?

Merv: The last goosebumps I had was from listening to music... as always! I have been archiving a lot of my old vinyl records recently and found many records that still aren't found anywhere on youtube or spotify... Thank God!

T.O.P: What do you like most about the psy scene's present?

Merv: My favourite modern psy is coming from the Psy Chill producers at the moment... there's plenty of variety and unpredictable stuff happening... as it should be!

T.O.P: About the idea, preparation and content of Shpongle Static...

Merv: It came from another great idea that Wegha from Ozora had! Every year we discuss a collaboration idea for the festival... which is one of the reasons that Ozora is a favourite festival of mine... he mentioned to me about working with Simon and before I could ask if Simon wanted to do it, he told me he had asked him already and Simon was into it... so I spoke to Simon and we decided that instead of writing a new obscure set of unknown music, it was better to give each other 5 or 6 tunes of each of our acts that were the popular tracks... tracks that resonated with our respective fans... and to have no rules about what each of us did to each other's tracks... as soon as I had kicked it off with the Latin tune "Beija Flor" we knew this was going to work really well... it was also a good excuse to add a few more 'live feeling' overdubs into those songs..

T.O.P: What made the project together exciting?

Merv: I think the thing that surprised us the most was how each of our own styles or specialities fitted each other's so well... My thing was always the heavier drums and rhythms (being a drummer),

whereas Simon's speciality was the melodies and vocal style things... so putting these together really brought a freshness and excitement even to older tracks. I also loved the fact we both added alot of liveness to the mixes... fresh overdubs that were performances unto themselves rather than endless repetitive looping programmed things... it worked perfectly and made it sound like a complete splice of Shpongle with Eat Static... and yes, only Merv and Si would sound like that!

T.O.P: Who else could you imagine joining you for the next Shpongle Static show?

Merv: Oooh if I could dream! I'm sure we would both love Robert Smith from The Cure to sing with us! We are both huge fans from back in the day... Other musicians I'd pick would be Toumani Diabete playing his Kora, Talvin Singh on Tablas

and Zara from Turkey on vocals..

T.O.P: Which has been your favorite stage and performance so far at Ozora (excluding Shpongle Static:)?

Merv: Oooh I have had so many great gigs there! Ozora is one of the few festivals that have truly respected what I do and given me complete artistic freedom! The first time I was asked back after the early 2011 appearance, I was wandering around and I discovered the Dragon's Nest stage... I spent most of that week at that stage watching a huge diverse range of music... It's a true musicians stage! Anyway I went back to Wegha and asked him for a slot on there for the following year, not knowing what the hell I was even gonna do there... and that was the reason I formed Strontium Dogs for... literally just for playing that

stage... and from that, many other projects happened... the collaboration with Ed Wynne last year for 'Tentacles of Static', the project with Steve Hillage as 'System Static', Herbal Orchestra (an improvisational project that does the Artibarn every year) etc, etc... This is why I love Ozora so much and work very very hard preparing a lot of new music every year... So back to your question - I'd say the highlights were Strontium Dogs kicking off the opening set of Ozora last year, the System Static set on the main stage 2 years ago and pretty much all my Static main stage slots, though the one that was the most popular was when I was infected with a really bad stomach virus in 2016 and was literally collapsing on stage or running for the toilet during the set! Rock n Roll baby!

T.O.P: Which of your tracks reflects the essence of 'static shpongle' the most to you?

Merv: I think they ALL hit the brief musically! Every track worked so well! I guess my personal faves were 'Strange Planet' (love Raja Ram's voice bits in there!) Pharaoh and DMT was also an epic... love 'em all actually!

T.O.P: How does the story continue?

Merv: If I can drag Simon out of bed, then there maybe some more gigs down the line! (sorry Si! haha!) Well, we both enjoyed it... so ya never know...xxxxxxxxxxxx

Huge gratitude, Merv, for all the mind benders, and all else that is still cooking in your psychedelic laboratory!



PICSTORIES



POSTCARD FROM OZORA

Voted the most astonishing artwork of the month! Artist: Raving Jaguar, whose headdress feathers have been stroked from Apple Valley to Paradise:D

"I made this photo-realism painting... Some of you may recognize yourself or other people in it. I may have enhanced the realism a bit to include the front of Ozora! Can't wait to see you all again soon! This was during Ajja sets as you can see him in the back. My painting maybe up for viewing at Ozora posted by mainstage if you want to see it in all its detail and glory. Hugs to you all." - Robbie Raves



A photo that so many of you loved from last summer's OZORA, speaks volumes of all that our psy community stands for and believes in. Frequently asked question: But why the divider? Answer: It's a safety regulation that all events above a certain number of attendees in Hungary must follow, otherwise the event cannot be held. The festival team is working on alternative solutions, as always.



"TO GET THE FULL VALUE OF JOY YOU MUST HAVE SOMEONE TO DIVIDE IT WITH." / MARK TWAIN

photo by Gergely Somogyi

photo by Gabor Hadron



WHAT HAPPENS IN WINTER OZORA, STAYS IN WINTER OZORA...?

SECRET MATERIAL SOURCED FROM THE HADRON ORCHESTRA SPACECRAFT, WHICH SINGLEHANDEDLY SPARKED THE MOST ENGAGEMENT ON THE PROPHET'S FB PAGE :)

BECAUSE WE ALL KNOW "THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE"



"INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ACROSS THE WORLD ARE THE ONES KEEPING THE HUMAN RACE FROM DESTROYING IT-SELF AND LEADING EARTH TO DISASTER." – NOAM CHOMSKY



photos by Renadeyn Christophe

FESTIVAL FREQUENCY

TRIBAL GATHERING PANAMA

The Prophet caught up with one of our much loved Ozorian artist managers, Peter Zagorski, before he flies off to Panama for the 2020 Tribal Gathering (Febr 29-March 15) this Monday. Since his first visit to the festival last year, he's been telling us we'd keep wanting to return if we'd just once been to this Caribbean gathering of the tribes. So, we asked Peter to tell us a bit more about this other kind of paradise, and how he got to be so lucky to be doing artist management in a beachside jungle.

T.O.P.: Your first time at Tribal Gathering was last year, but you were already going there to do artist management. You're based in Hungary, so how did you find out about it, and how did you end up festival-working so far away from home?

Zagi: I saw a Tribal Gathering flyer for the first time at Ozora Festival in 2012, and some of my friends ended up going, they told me it was an incredibly beautiful location and pure awesomeness... (Though it wasn't yet held on a beach then, it's been on the present location of Playa Chiquita for the past 3-4 years.) Anyway, I found out that Chris from Nanoplex was doing the lineup for one of the stages, and when they were here gigging in Budapest in October 2018 at Ambient, I jokingly asked him about it, literally at the bar, and if they needed an artist

manager by any chance. It turned out they were actually looking for one, and 2 weeks later they sent me a plane ticket. So 2019 was my first Tribal Gathering. This year I'm going for a longer time, 4 weeks.

T.O.P.: Compared to the Ozorian tribal gathering, how would you describe it?

Zagi: It's also a multicultural, ethnically colorful and diverse, eco-friendly, transformational music festival, which also involves the local community (who help build and tear down the festival, offer local delicacies and handmade arts and crafts) and it is located in the middle of unblemished nature. There are also several stages, though the programs here last 3 weeks. After all, it is one of the largest international gatherings in the world. The first two weeks are dedicated to Latin American live band music and connecting with indigenous tribes, learning about their ancestral wisdom, worldview, and relearning how to live more symbiotically with nature, to be more in balance with our mother earth and each other... Representatives of 60 tribes from all over the globe gather here, and besides sharing their music, there are all kinds of cultural programs and workshops through which ancient and modern knowledge can connect... You can expect 1 full week of tribal

programs and 1 full week of music, while on Transition day (March 9) this year you can hear acoustic local music bands from around the area. Psytrance (the 18+ party time haha) is during the final week, on the Lotus Stage, which is built and beautified up until the dance celebration of the last 5 days. Then it comes alive with the finest psychedelic trance, a lineup much like the one on the Ozorian Main Stage, with the same international headliners... The deco and the visuals are out of this world, while everything is created from natural or recycled materials... The festival is not only located in a bay, but also on a kind of peninsula where all the trash from Caribbean cruise ships washes ashore. They collect all this garbage and turn everything into beautiful festival decoration and art.

T.O.P.: There are many similarities, so how about differences?

Zagi: Well, an advantage is that it's a small gathering of about 2000 festival goers. By the end everyone is a familiar face more or less. There are of course more American DJs too, but both the organization and psy lineup is international ... The weather is perfect for partying, even when it's hot, there's always a warm breeze, palm trees, you can swim, the water is good too, though you have to be careful because of strong riptides... There are

lifeguards of course... Basically, it's a Latin American festival with all its natural and ancient cultural riches organized by European or Western standards, you can't have any worries in the world...

T.O.P.: Yet you're off the edge of the map in a beachside jungle in Panama... How about the wildlife?

Zagi: During the first week you can see more wildlife but as we near the peak, the more people arrive, the animals retreat into the jungle. You have to be careful though, because you can run into scorpions... Or monkeys that are really protective of their territory. Last year when the artist camp was closest to the jungle, we were just done setting up a big, onion-shaped tent, it took the five of us to get it done, and then some monkeys appeared and started throwing their poop at us and all over the nice, clean, white tent...

T.O.P.: So what are you looking forward to the most this edition?

Zagi: Going back of course:) Also I'm going earlier this year, staying almost a month altogether, to help during the building process, which I love doing. And this year more of my friends will also be there for the final week... I guess they believed me when I told them they have to see it to believe it.



photo by Renadeyn Christophe