

**GERAINT ROSSER, BASSIST FOR HIT METALCORE BAND
CONFLICT, GIVES HIS OPINION ON HOW THE PANDEMIC
WILL CHANGE LIVE MUSIC FOR YEARS TO COME**

IS THIS **THE END OF LIVE MUSIC** AS WE KNOW IT?

INTERVIEW AND PHOTOGRAPHY
BY **GEORGE SMITH**

**"THIS IS
THE FUTURE"**
GERAINT ROSSER

A man walks into a bar. There is no punchline. This is Geraint Rosser, bassist, founder, and creative fulcrum of Conflict, one of the most popular metal bands of the decade, sitting down in front of me. Every time I meet a "star" I'm shocked by how normal they seem, and this is no exception. After hearing his effortlessly aggressive basslines from their recent album *Nightbreak*, watching his impressively imposing presence on stage and video, it is hard to reconcile that with the chilled out, almost timid man sitting across from me. But we aren't here to talk about him. We're here to talk about music.

Conflict has always had something to say about the state of the world. Known for speaking out about many different issues, Geraint has always had an opinion and let everyone know it. After Conflict's tour to promote *Nightbreak* was cancelled due to COVID-19, the band decided to use

the power of livestreams to keep the show going. After his experience with this powerful medium, Geraint has some thoughts on how this might affect future shows even after the pandemic. "This is the future".

"Difficult situations force change" he says. While this statement is true to a lot of things, he is of course referring to the grounding of live shows due to COVID-19. Conflict's tour to promote the new album was cancelled, and they are far from the only band to suffer. Some people might call this a "first world problem", or a lesser concern, but Rosser is swift to shut them down. "We get that compared to some of the inarguably bigger problems this might

be small. But this is an industry. Jobs are on the line. And no one can deny the hope and entertainment music can bring". I find myself agreeing with this. Personally music is one of the only things that got me through lockdown unscathed.

There is hope though. Recently bands have been using livestreams to perform to their fans. As a pioneer of this medium, Rosser has comments. "A live show, anywhere in the world. This surely changes everything." Many would argue that it's hardly a consolation, live shows are best in person. "There's no doubt that a live show is best, well, live. But for those that can't travel, they can't take the time off, they can't afford it. They get to be right here with us, right from their living room." "Of course we want to be right there with our fans, in person, as soon as we can. But if we combined the two, we could give everyone a good time, regardless of time, venue capacity, travel costs..." Well who could argue with that.

The success of these livestreams was far greater than anyone could have guessed. "We thought that people might be kinda pissed off, that like we seemed to think this would be a good replacement to the tour they had been waiting for. But they weren't. Can't speak for everyone but all our fans just seemed to be really happy for us that we could perform." It benefited a lot of people too. "Some people simply cannot just go see a live show. With the streams, they could watch it without disrupting their lives or breaking the bank". It would seem then that livestreaming may remain an important part of live music.

So maybe this does change live music as we know it. Maybe this is one of the few good things to come out of the pandemic. Live music, all at once, in every country around the globe. "If that isn't the future of live music then I don't know what is".

Find out more about Conflict at conflictband.co.uk
or check out their twitter [@conflictofficial](https://twitter.com/conflictofficial)