

# Hek82 chats w/ Daniel Trejo of Shattered Sun



***Metal band Shattered Sun at Rockstar Mayhem festival in San Bernadino, Ca at San Manuel Amphitheatre***

Alright! I'm so excited, we are here in San Bernadino, San Manuel Amphitheatre...

Hek: It's my first time, and I just love this place, it's awesome! We're having so much fun, I just got here... beautiful day. Great performances, I'm excited because I'm with Danny from Shattered Sun! Danny Trejo, that's your name right?

Trejo: Yes, that's my name, Daniel!

Hek: Well, you if course are a brilliant guitarist. Your band is new on the scene isn't that so?

Trejo: Yeah, we got signed last year, I think it was February. Prior to that, we've been around and actually started the band in 2005, a lot of member changes- finally hooked up w/ management and hey- we're here now for Mayhem fest, so it's pretty awesome!



Hek: Shattered Sun is the name of the band and I love the name (and the images it evokes). Is there something that you'd like to say about your band and the music, the sound that you put it together that falls into play with the name Shattered Sun?

Trejo: I'd say with the name Shattered Sun- I like to have a lot of melodic music, melodies especially on the riffs, I take influences from Sweden. Like In Flames, big influences on us- not to sure how to put the music with the name.

Hek: Well, it's great and it's nice to know what you have to say about how it feels to play with the group. When I think about it, I love it. A lot of people get inspiration from the sun. Now we have your band and music from Shattered Sun and it's cool. Do you want to talk a little bit more about the formation of the group?

Trejo: Yeah, it started in 2005 with our love for Thrash Metal which Metallica made and Testament, and then evolved for the new wave metal core like Lamb of God, Shadows Fall on earth, Killswitch Engage came out and through a lot of member changes we finally got the line up that we have now. We got signed and found management and just came off of tour with Testament and Exodus so that was pretty awesome...

Hek: Definitely! Cool to have a new sound on the metal scene and already to be supporting mega metal acts like Testament and Exodus, and you've got inspiration to go on from LOG and

Killswitch and the metal scene today is cool, it's changing a little bit...

Trejo: Yeah, I mean when metal core came out and then went to grind core then death core... and what is it now? I mean yeah, there're so many genres out there but we like to keep it straight up metal. We love the riffs, especially inspired by Metallica and Testament. We like to keep those riffs alive.

Hek: Cool, tonight you're supporting Slayer, Hellyeah, King Diamond is here ... and a lot of other great artists are playing tonight. Anything you'de like to say about Hellyeah or Slayer?

Trejo: Yeah, Slayer- I'm good friends with Gary Holt 'cause we toured with him cause he's also on Exodus. And then, I played for Slayer- so we're good freinds with him and I keep in contact. Slayer is awesome they've been around since '84 or '85 and they've been a part of that thrash scene ... and then Hellyeah's Vinnie Paul he's from TX, and we've always loved Pantera. Pantera's from Texas. I actually met him yesterday at catering and it was pretty surreal. I got to meet him and then talked to Gary. So, it's been a lot of good times.

Hek: Lucky! That's really cool. I like Texas bands a lot too and definitely Hellyeah, Pantera has always been such a big inspiration, and for metal fans for you to be here with them... Your tour has just kicked off really with the new album you've got out- "Hope Within Hatred"... it's a great start. Super, unbeatable so far!

Trejo: Yeah! The album came out April 21st and is available now on iTunes and Amazon... you can go pick it up, it's all gonna be at our merch boothes all summer long too at Mayhem fest. If you want to be true- you can even buy it at a store. Your local FYE or just Google us and I'm pretty sure you can find the CD.

Hek: Amazon, iTunes and it's definitely worth checking out! I'm gonna give you some promotion on my radio show and I'm really happy to be able to do that... and to get to meet the band, I met Shattered Sun and so it's a great day for me too! Do you like being here in California?

Trejo: Yeah, California our first stop on the Testament tour was San Francisco and we did not know how hilly it was! Up and down, up and down with our van and trailer ... how scary!

Hek: The streets in San Fran are so funny. But here in SO Cal we have these great mountains here we are surrounded by and it is absolutely beautiful!

Trejo: When you stand by the Victory stage you can see all the highways and the mountains, it's great scenery here!

Hek: Cool. Now, your band members and I didn't get to talk to all of them- but you've got the Garza brothers (Robert drums and Henry keys/vocals) and you have the vocalists Santos- Jesse, and Marcos- and they're super (bass Guajardo). When did you hook up with the Garza brothers?

Trejo: I hooked up with the drummer, I think he started in 2007 and the keyboardist we got in 2011. But yeah, me and Rob have been jammin' together for a long time. We know how to write together which is good and you need that communication in a band so- we can tell each other when it sucks or when it's good. We've been working together for a while now.

Hek: Cool, I like to hear from musicians about how they write together and work together, so that's neat. I've heard these days people are using cell phones and sending each other MP3's and I love it!

Trejo: We do that... I come up with a bunch of riffs, and I got Easy Drummer the program; send him the riffs or songs- he puts his input on it and then we go back and forth. Me and him and the riffs and drums... core foundation of Shattered Sun.

Hek: Right on! What do you think about some players that have motivated you in a certain way- what about Dimebag Darrell... Vinnie's brother?

Trejo: Oh, sure- Dimebag!

Hek: Whom we miss a lot.

Trejo: Seeing Dimebag at the 1991 Domination performance ... it was so sick his headbanging and performance and his divebombs and his shreds- so clean, you know, his tone was always so tight and precise, gosh I miss Dimebag! I wonder what he would think of the music today... you know?

Hek: (I'm sure he would think music today was cool!) Super sweet player! Again, he has inspired so many guitarists... what you say about his music is absolutely right on. I mean... talk about tight riffs ...

Trejo: Exactly.

Hek: We all miss Dimebag. Well, it certainly was nice to speak with you- you're a great musician and I wish your band a whole lot of luck and you as well as a player! I hope your band goes far, it's definitely very popular already.

Trejo: Our fan base is growing quickly we just gotta keep playing everyday ... let's see after this tour. This fall we're going to be on tour with Soulfly, Soilwork and Decapitated- so hopefully the fans that came out and saw us on Testament and Mayhem will come out and see us again, you know! Let's keep the fans goin'!

Hek: Absolutely. Mayhem is awesome and the fans are great. Are you going to be playing anywhere in North America or out of the country that you're looking forward to yet?

Trejo: Um, on this tour Seattle. I wanna see Seattle because we haven't been there yet. We're playing in Idaho and that's actually cool 'cause we haven't been there.

Hek: There's a lot of corn in Idaho. (actually- potatoes!) I'm sure you'll enjoy it, and the rest of the tour. Thanks again!

Trejo: Thank you.