

**Artist:** Mick White  
**Album Title:** Something's Got To Give  
**Label:** Enghardt Media/EDEL  
**Genre:** Melodic Classic Rock



**Description:**

The album *Something's Got To Give* is my debut solo album and is an unashamedly hard rock record very much with its classic rock roots in the early eighties but all wrapped up in a very tight modern production that sits perfectly in the modern rock sound. The majority of the tracks were co-written by myself alongside hot shot guitarist Luke Hatton who also handled bass and keyboard duties. The album was mostly written and recorded throughout the pandemic with all the vocals, guitars, bass and keyboards recorded in the UK. Drums were then added by Carsten Enghardt at 1st Take Studios in Gachenbach, Bavaria where it was also mixed and mastered by Enghardt and Ulrich Hilbel.

Opening track *Burning In The Night* is a bombastic rocker that lyrically pays homage to songs such as Dio's *Stand Up And Shout* and *Coming Home* by the Scorpions describing the relationship between the band and the audience. The title track *Something's Got To Give* which alongside debut single *Emergency On Planet Earth* deals with the

growing environmental catastrophe we are facing. Although there's an important message they still deliver the big choruses and guitars that are such a feature of the album. Second single *Sometime Superman* is a dark brooding rocker dealing with the issues of mental health and is built on a heavy riff and features a stunning extended guitar solo from Hatton. Interspersed with the rockers there are some softer moments with the beautiful ballad *Ordinary Girl* and the reworking of the *First Strike* track *Hold Tight* which I originally wrote and recorded in 1989. The nod to the eighties continues with the sleazy *You Poisoned My Love* before giving way to the classic rock sound of *Don't Close Your Eyes* a song I co-wrote with the late, great Paul Samson in 1988. The album closer is a reworking of *Better Be Strong* an uplifting and inspirational song written by German songwriter Marty Punch which I originally recorded as a session in 2019 but now given the full rock treatment without losing the melody and grandeur of the original.

**Influences for the album:**

There's a real contrast of influences across the album with the music mostly written by guitarist Luke Hatton and the lyrics and vocal melodies coming from myself. Luke is very influenced by the power metal scene and bands such as Avantasia and Sabaton whereas I'm far more influenced by more melodic acts such as Journey, Van Halen and Y & T. We both love Iron Maiden though which was a great place to meet in the middle so we've hopefully

made an album that has elements of the eighties but with a good nod to more contemporary artists too.

**Band Line-Up:**

Mick White – lead vocals  
Luke Hatton – guitars/vocals  
Carsten Enghardt – drums  
Ian Edwards – bass/vocals

**CD Track Listing:**

- 1 *Burning In The Night*
- 2 *Something's Got To Give*
- 3 *Without You*
- 4 *Emergency On Planet Earth*
- 5 *Ordinary Girl*
- 6 *Altar Of Desire*
- 7 *Sometime Superman*
- 8 *Hold Tight*
- 9 *You Poisoned My Love*
- 10 *Don't Close Your Eyes*
- 11 *Better Be Strong*

Hailing from Staffordshire, West Midlands, UK we find Melodic Classic Rock artist **MICK WHITE** who has an excellent new eleven track CD out now called *'Something's Got To Give'* which runs in at just over fifty minutes long and is the artists debut release.



It's Sunday 1st May in the West Midlands of the UK, Spring is in the air and the following day is a bank holiday so everyone is enjoying the prospect of no work tomorrow and is ready for a party. We are sitting backstage at The Station in Cannock where singer Mick White is getting ready to hit the stage with his band in a couple of hours to launch his



debut solo album 'Something's Got To Give'. Mick offers me a drink from the bands rider and he sips on a hot honey, lemon and ginger tea as we settle down to discuss the new album. There's quite a mixture of styles and influences running through the band and the musician likes to think that helps to make them a little different from other bands. Guitarist Luke Halton with whom Mick wrote most of the album with is a bit younger at twenty eight so he brings a lot to the table that Mick wouldn't necessarily have thought would've been in the sound at the start. "I love the power metal elements in some of the tracks but there's still so much musicality and melody in the riffs that it's been easy for me to put my more melodic melodies over them to make it still have that authentic eighties feel," he expresses. Added to that drummer Carsten Enghardt who is from Munich obviously brings the German edge and European flavour not only in his drumming but also in the mix of the album alongside his production partner Ulrich Hilbel. "We've since added my old buddy Ian Edwards on bass to the band, Ian has a terrific voice so we're able to reproduce all the layered harmonies that are on the album live."

Mick has always loved music and he has been singing since he was a kid in fact it's all he can ever remember wanting to do. It became a real passion for him around 1979 when the NWOBHM bands started coming through which coincided with him starting to go to gigs. "I saw the Scorpions early in 1980 and I was hooked, the whole show just blew me away and I was like 'I wanna do that'. A couple of years later I was singing in local bands and started doing gigs and by 1984 I was pretty much doing

it professionally," he explains to me. He started writing songs and was very driven so it didn't take long before he got noticed by a band that were playing regularly at the Marquee in London. "Paul Samson was at one of those shows in 1986 and asked me to audition for his new band Paul Samson's Empire which I got and within a couple of months we got the support slot on Iron Maiden's Somewhere In Time tour," he smiles.

As already mentioned Mick was very influenced by the bands that were coming through around 1979-81. "It was such a fantastic time for rock music with Iron Maiden, Def Leppard and Saxon coming through alongside Motorhead, UFO, Thin Lizzy, Scorpions, Judas Priest and some amazing American bands like Van Halen, Y & T and Riot.



So the whole scene was a massive influence on me and with incredible singers like Ronnie James Dio, David Coverdale and Klaus Meine to draw inspiration from it really was the golden era," he marvels.

Shortly after this he discovered the whole American FM sound and hearing Steve Perry from Journey for the first time was a game changer. "I became a lot more influenced by this sound going forward and really embraced the whole AOR genre which is still my favourite today. When we came to write 'Something's Got To Give' I tried to draw on all these influences so there's hopefully a good mixture of the more traditional

metal as well as the slicker American sound. One thing you'll always get with me is the layered harmonies and being left to my own devices for the recording due to lockdown I have gone to town on some of the tracks," he points out.

Outside of music the artist has a real passion for Mixology and he has actually worked quite extensively in this field including running his own business. "After I drifted away from music in the early two thousands I needed to find something to fill the gap and I fell into hospitality where I quickly found I was a natural. I went from bartending to managing bars and became very successful. In 2006 I moved out to Skiathos in Greece to run a bar and started making cocktails which soon became a passion almost as strong as music which I'm very grateful for," he smiles. He has also written a cocktail list which is in the centre pages of the CD booklet on the album. "Each song has its own signature cocktail with ingredients and instructions on how to make it."

He found that 'Something's Got To Give' has been a real labour of love, something of which he is incredibly proud of with the way it has turned out. It's an honest, no nonsense classic rock record full of big riffs, massive hooks and definitely has an authentic eighties feel to it. "On the flip side Luke has brought a completely different dimension to anything I have been involved with before and his mixture of old school Maiden influenced riffs alongside some of the power metal and then the more melodic touches means it offers something a little different. This is then all wrapped up in a bang up to date modern production which has so much clarity between the different



instruments but still allows everything to gel together so that the songs can shine. After being away for so long I really couldn't have asked for a better album to re launch myself with and I feel very blessed to have this amazing bunch of musicians around me," he says with spirit. Song wise the new album has everything from balls out rockers through to the softer power ballads and more AOR style. "I really hope there's something here for everyone.



Lyrically I've really tried to stretch myself and I've written about the problems we face with the environment, mental health and even a track called Ordinary Girl which touches on the issue of grooming. There's also a couple of tracks from my past that we've reworked, firstly a song I wrote with Paul Samson in 1988 called 'Don't Close Your Eyes' and a new version of 'Hold Tight' from the First Strike album which I wrote in 1989.

We've also done a song called 'Better Be Strong' written by my friend Marty Punch who's a brilliant songwriter from Germany. I'd originally done the song as a session in 2019 and loved the track so much we recorded it at the last minute and it now

closes the album," he explains to me. Having had such a long time away from music it has been very difficult for Mick to compare what he was doing previously to the new album. "The voice that is on the albums I did with Samson and First Strike is unrecognisable to what I sound like now and although you can hear the influences in the song writing are the same everything else is totally different," he enthuses. "I was so young when I recorded those albums and although I look back on them with a lot of affection my voice is so much better now and so is my writing."

All of the recording for the album took place during lockdown so it was a real challenge and most definitely a learning curve. Fortunately Carsten is not only a fantastic drummer but he's a wonderful producer with a brilliant studio (1st Take Studios) just outside of Munich. "With the technology we have now Luke and I were able to record our parts at our home studios in the UK and send them out to Germany where the drums were added and the album was mixed and mastered. Luke has had a good studio set up for some time so I think he found it a relatively easy process but I had only just started working on a DAW so I had to really learn on the job," he tells me. Obviously ensuring the quality of the vocal recordings and the levels were good enough was so important and this took Mick a while to perfect. "I've always been more of a producer/arranger than the more technical stuff but after experimenting with a couple of mics I bought a Shure SM7B and things were a lot easier after that. I think the hardest thing was not having anyone to bounce off when you're doing a take, that's always been really

important to me in the recording process so I just used my experience and went with my gut and I'm really pleased with the final outcome. We didn't rush the process, the world was shut down so there was no deadline and we were also still writing a couple of the tracks so I would say it took around nine months including the mix. Carsten works with a great guy Ulrich Hilbel who is his production partner and he brought a lot to the table. Like Luke he's a little younger than Carsten and I with really cool modern production ideas so once again we ended up having the best of the old and new but this time in the production. In the end it was a fantastic team effort so all four of us got a production credit with Carsten and Uli taking the well deserved credit for mixing and mastering."



Song wise his highlight of the album is the ditty called 'Without You'. "It just has everything that I wanted when we first started the album. I love the feel and complexity of the song, the dynamics in the middle section and I think the performances throughout are outstanding. It also has an almost eerie sense of desperation so musically it really reminds of Evanescence," he smiles. "I have to say as well that Luke is sensational on this track really showing his diversity



and a maturity way beyond his years.

It's been a long time since we've had a young British guitar hero and I genuinely think he is just that. It's always hard to pick just one highlight when you make an album but this is a song I'm particularly proud of and it's why I've chosen it to be our featured track on your sampler."

As a live band the guys are just starting out really but already for Mick it feels like they have been together for years. "The first show back in March was incredible with a packed out venue and although they only knew the two singles the songs went over way beyond expectations. When you consider that until we got into the rehearsal studio a week before the first show the four of us had never been in the same room together it came together remarkably quickly. I have to say also that the chemistry between us was there from the first second which is just as important and has definitely come across to the audience so far," he enthuses. What's really impressed him the most though is how good the album sounds live.



"We're playing it in its entirety and it's so powerful and yet all the melody and dynamics still shine through. Bringing Ian Edwards in on bass was key to the live sound as we wouldn't have been able to pull off the vocal harmonies

without Ian's quality voice putting all the high notes on top of mine as well as his superb bass playing. The plan now is to get out and play to as many people as we can with more headline shows plus some exciting supports coming up throughout the Summer. We're already thinking about album number two so to make that viable you've got to get your music out to the people, sell CD's and merchandise and build your following. We've had an awful lot of airplay in Germany on many of the major radio stations and a huge amount of streams for the singles so we are planning some dates and will be looking to really open up that market throughout the coming year." Covid has had a massive effect on the industry and Mick and his band have been no exception. "As I already explained it made the recording process challenging but we've also filmed two videos during this time which was a whole different set of problems. We have an amazing guy James Heron who does all our videos and he's worked miracles. 'Emergency On Planet Earth' was done on green screens with Carsten filming his parts in Munich and Luke and I filming our parts separately here in the West Midlands. James then worked his magic and we ended up with an incredible video which got us a lot of attention," he tells me. Having a drummer in Germany isn't always ideal but Carsten is such an important part of the band that they go out of their way to make it work and covid has not made that easy. "The second video was filmed in January 2022 just as Omicron started to hit us. We had a venue booked for a performance video and at the last minute all flights from

Germany were cancelled so Carsten was unable to come over. We had to scramble around to get a stand in drummer and fortunately we found Daz Lamberton who is an absolute legend and did an amazing job in the Sometime Superman video. The problem we are seeing now even as the pandemic is easing is the knock on effect of all the postponed tours and gigs. All the festivals have been on hold for a couple of years so most of the bills were booked back then and so it's difficult to move forward with booking live shows until they have caught up.



Also there is still so much uncertainty with people buying advance tickets which means bands and venues have no security that the shows will go ahead even if booked and sadly we are still losing small venues at an alarming rate," he sighs. Now that the album is finally out Mick just wants to get the band out live as much as possible over the coming year. The gigs we've played so far make me confident that this is a band that will only get better the more gigs we play and there's a real old school rock n roll show vibe to what we're doing which I don't see in a lot of the upcoming bands today. I really want this to move forward as a band now and not just a solo project. In the live situation we are booking the shows as the Mick White

Band and I very much want the next album to go out under that name. We have been working on some new tracks and the plan is to put out another single and video in July but make it an EP with some new material included. James has been filming everything since day one so we have a wealth of great footage which we would like to include in the next video and there might even be enough for a documentary as well. As I said earlier we are planning to get over to Germany later this year and once things start to get back to normal properly it's somewhere we hope to be working a lot. I also have another project which I worked on simultaneously in lockdown called White Skies. This is a pure AOR album which I've co-written with my old friend Ray Callcut (ex Ya Ya) and keyboard player Pete Lakin (ex Dante Fox). I'm totally buzzing about this album and we have a deal in place so it's set to be released at the end of the year with a single hopefully in September. I spent a lot of time away from music and even had about ten years where I didn't sing at all so I feel that although the pandemic was the toughest of times it gave me the opportunity to come back to what I love the most, singing and writing.



My ultimate aim now is to keep writing and putting out albums, play as many shows as I can with great musicians and hopefully make enough of a living to keep going for a number of years," concludes Mick, bringing an end to our conversation.

'Something's Got To Give' is available on CD with a twelve page booklet as well as all digital platforms. Well worth checking out.

Check Mick out at:

[www.mickwhite.co.uk](http://www.mickwhite.co.uk)

<https://www.facebook.com/mickwhiteofficial/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uk8t9L-Fu6s>

<https://open.spotify.com/artist/777rn-0buh05vnh0af0t-00f>

<https://www.instagram.com/mickwhiteofficial/>

<https://t.me/mickwhiteofficial>