

than that, I mean fuck - if you want to play like me go ahead."

GM: Where do you get your ideas for tuned from. Do you sit down and polish them or are you inspired?

Yngwie: "The latter. I'm very spontaneous, I just sit down and start playing something (plays example 8). That song just came like that."

GM: Once you've got the idea do you work out which scale goes over what chord, etc.

Yngwie: "Oh yeah, theoretically I'm very strict. I wouldn't put in things that don't harmonise very well. I'm very strict on that. I used a lot of harmonic minor but I also like to do lots of suspended and inverted chords. I like to write like that." (Plays example 9.)

GM: You mentioned theory there. How did you go about learning theoretical ideas?

Yngwie: "Just all by ear, but one day I decided, hmmm, maybe I should learn theory so I went to buy this book and everything that was in that book I already knew but I didn't know the names so then I learned all the names. I thought it was all so logical."

GM: How do you apply the modes, do you say 'right, here's a Bmin chord in G so I'll play B Frigian', or do you say 'fuck it, I'll do whatever I want'?

Yngwie: "I follow whatever the chord progression is basically, but I like to have the progression more interesting by having some modulations or transpositions. I found the whole thing logical and I'm a logical person. Sometimes people call me Mr Spock because I think logically about everything."

GM: But you don't have the ears! Are you thinking of notes when you play?

Yngwie: "It becomes second nature really. I mean I know which notes I'm playing, I know their relationship to the chord progression and the flow of the harmonies but I think it's important that once you have that shit down you shouldn't really think too much about it."

GM: The use of the harmonic minor scale has recently become much more wide-spread even though it can be difficult to finger and if used incorrectly difficult to listen to. How did

you first encounter the harmonic minor scale?

Yngwie: "Mainly from Classical music and also from Folk music in Sweden (plays example 10). So I think maybe from where I come from and I didn't find it abrasive at all, I found it very nice." (See example 11, two octave harmonic minor scale.)

GM: When you write, do you make a point of using these scales or do you just go by feel?

Yngwie: "Purely feel. I don't really plan anything ahead. I'm very spontaneous, quite compulsive. I can walk into a store and say 'I think I'll buy that Rolex, how much is it'. It's like when I

bought my car, I woke up one morning and said to my girlfriend 'I fancy a Ferrari' and I went out and bought a fucking Ferrari."

GM: Yes, I'm the same - this morning I fancied a packet of Silk Cut so I went out and bought one.

Yngwie: "Can I have one? But back to the harmonic minor thing. I really liked it so much that I decided to use it and it became something I just naturally put in."

GM: Let's talk about the new album. How did you go about selecting the rest of the band? I understand they're all Swedish.

Yngwie: "Yeah, I said 'you're

Ex. 5



Ex. 6



Ex. 7

