

September 2020

# WALTZ

The Official FC Newsletter

Member Interview  
**Astro Logian**

Flare Interview  
**Freya Stormfall**



*In This Issue: Artwork - Lore - Screenshots - Events - Housing - Glamour - And More!*

## Contents

- 1 Cover
- 2 Table of Contents
- 3 Calendar
- 4-5 Flare Interview
- 6-11 Screenshots Corner
- 12-14 Black Waltz Art Gallery
- 15-17 The Open House
- 18-19 FC Mate Interview
- 20-21 Eorzean Chronicles
- 22 What's New in Waltz



# The Black Waltz



# SEP 2020

**P** POWERBALL

MOUNT FARM

**CLASSES**

LOTTERY

MAPS

BIRTHDAY

SKETCHTEMBER

WALTZBOX

FATES

ANNIVERSARY

THE BLACK WALTZ AUCTION

SPECIAL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	31	1	2	3	4	5 • BLU w/ WASHU
6 • NEKRA'S BIRTHDAY	7	8	9	10	11	12 • GPOSE w/ BROCK • DRG w/ DORIAN
13 • BROCK'S SMASH BROS. TOURNAMENT	14	15	16	17	18	19 • RAID w/ ALU and or T'KALA • GNB w/ MAKOTOU
20 • FREYA'S BIRTHDAY	21	22 • KAI'S BIRTHDAY	23	24	25	26 • DEATHDRO DARTBOARD • AST w/ DIANA • MIN & BOT w/ VAHN'A 
27	28	29 • LULUNARI AND KHAI'XUR'S ANNIVERSARY	30	1	2	3

Interview with . . .

# Freya Stormfall



## **How did you come across the Black Waltz?**

Waltz is just one of those FCs you've heard about if you've been on the server. I restarted a character on Jenova due to an IRL friend being here, and I'd been in several smaller and medium-sized FCs for a while, kind of hopping around. Even before joining Waltz I'd heard about how kind and sweet and helpful the members of the FC were. I figured it was time to try something large--and ever since the beginning I've been blown away by the people in this FC and I'm really glad I took a chance and applied to Waltz.

## **So tell us a little bit about your character?**

I've never Fantasia'd, most likely never will--she's a Highlander Hyur, and way tougher than I'll ever be, and also way taller than I'll ever be (short girl problems). "Freya" comes from Final Fantasy IX's Freya Crescent and "Stormfall" is the name of a keyblade from the Kingdom Hearts series. Both my SO's character and I have purple star tattoos because we are JoJo's Bizarre Adventure nerds.

## **Many of us know that you raid. What got you into it?**

I played during 2.0 from day one. At the end of 2.0 you start unlocking Hard and Extreme trials. I had so much anxiety back then about my healing and my skills as a player. Eden's Gate 1-4 in Shadowbringers were my first tier and now I'm totally hooked on raiding. I really lucked out to have built an awesome static, because having good friends with you maximizes the teamwork it takes to do this harder content.

## **Outside of raiding, do you have any goals in-game?**

Ever since finishing Shadowbringers MSQ, I've been working on leveling alt jobs. There're a lot of jobs in the game! I'm almost done now. I knocked out all my crafters and gatherers during Ishgard Restoration season one. At this time, only three jobs to go and then they'll be done until next expansion! It'll definitely be a lot less intimidating after the next level cap increase. Other long-term goals include completing floors 200 of Palace of the Dead and 100 of Heaven-on-High and farming out the Astrope mount from 3,000 Mentor Roulettes.

**Now someone did mention that you have a pet, tell us about that! I heard that they are part of your static.**

I have a one-year-old tuxedo kitten named Joker, AKA Jojo. He usually sits on the back of my chair while we play and I even have a second chair with a cat bed on it that he likes to sleep on while I'm logged into FFXIV. My static-mates consider both him and Sushi (Diana Waters' cat) as honorary members and mascots because half the time during raid we are yelling at them like, "Please do not jump on the keyboard or on my lap!" We have lost more than one pull to the cats' antics, haha. We have three static cats: Joker, Sushi, and Spooky (Reggie's cat).

**Is there a wonderful memory you cherish from the game?**

I can remember in 2.0, seeing a few locations for the first time took my breath away...the Burning Wall in Eastern Thanalan is one that sticks out the most. I saw it and said, "You can climb on that? You can go there?" I saw it first in the nighttime, and the way that it glows orange is awe-inspiring; the fact that the game locales could be so beautiful was something that really stuck with me. Same with Urth's Fount in the South Shroud. I fell in love with this game because of the beauty in the Black Shroud, to be honest.

Other than that, the obvious answer for me was clearing my first Savage tier with friends from Waltz. It's such an incredible feeling to have defeated a boss that's been crushing you for weeks or months and being able to walk away knowing you accomplished something really great.

**What is the class that you main and why?**

I main healers in general and play White Mage for raid, but Scholar is my favorite job overall. I love the White Mages' connection to nature, and the Black Shroud and Gridania in particular, because of the serenity of the forest, and I adore the Shroud music. The Scholar gameplay style is way more varied and fun however, and I love the fairy aesthetically (the fairies and their animations are gorgeous). The Scholar class storyline is my favorite job plotline in the game. I cried at the conclusion of the level 80 quest.

**Are there any DoH/L that are your favorite?**

Honestly, I like that all of them contribute something, whether it's for housing, the latest glamour gear, or the top endgame gear. Having a well-gear'd Alchemist is extremely useful to being self-sufficient for raid by being able to craft your own potions, which saves a lot of money in the long run. My favorite DoL is Botanist because it's really chill to just go out logging like a lumberjack, put on some tunes and gather. Some find it boring, but I find gathering really relaxing and I wish we had more DoL jobs.

**We have lots of expansions now, which one is by far your favorite?**

Shadowbringers, hands down. While the story has been gradually ramping up and becoming a serious ordeal even since A Realm Reborn, there's a clear reason why Shadowbringers was winning awards left and right. The story is so dark, and goes to very unexpected places. From the very onset of Shadowbringers, I experienced so many jaw-dropping moments. Plus the world of Norvrandt is so beautiful and so dramatically different from Eorzea.

**Do you have any favorite minion and mount in the game?**

The Pegasus mount and minion are both my favorites, because they're adorable and frankly, I love horses. I'd like to get all the horse mounts in the game, as I like to collect. The Tyrannosaurus mount from Eureka Anemos is a close second. I opened between two and three thousand lockboxes to get it.

**Tell me a bit about your music taste, what are you into?**

I love music, this is a great question! I managed a record store for three years and have definitely been exposed to tons of stuff. I primarily like punk and post-punk rock, some modern prog rock bands, new wave, some metal, some pop and electro-pop, and alt-rock, if you will. Favorite artists are Alkaline Trio, Coheed & Cambria, Sabaton, Dance Gavin Dance, the Menzingers, Tiger's Jaw, Ghost, Katy Perry, Phil Collins, Lady Gaga, Depeche Mode, Tears for Fears, Pat Benatar, Cyndi Lauper... I could go on.

And lots of game soundtracks! I love the Final Fantasy series as a whole. Shadow of the Colossus has my favorite OST of all time, plus both Nier games have godlike soundtracks.

**If you ever met your FC-mates IRL what would your reaction be?**

I'll always be really excited at the prospect of meeting someone from the game. I know Istari is planning to organize an FC meetup, but a large-scale gathering would be fully hype and I'll definitely take time off work to travel and hang out. Earlier this year I did get a chance to meet one of our FC-mates, Reggie The'bear--he plays Gunbreaker in my static and I met him and his wife while they were visiting my home city. I'll gladly take anybody that comes to see me out to tacos or something. It was a nice time, 10/10 would do again.

# SCREENSHOTS CORNER!

View some of the stunning screenshots created by your FC mates last month!

Kellin



Lyrical



Rattleballs



# SCREENSHOTS CORNER!

Aluzandria

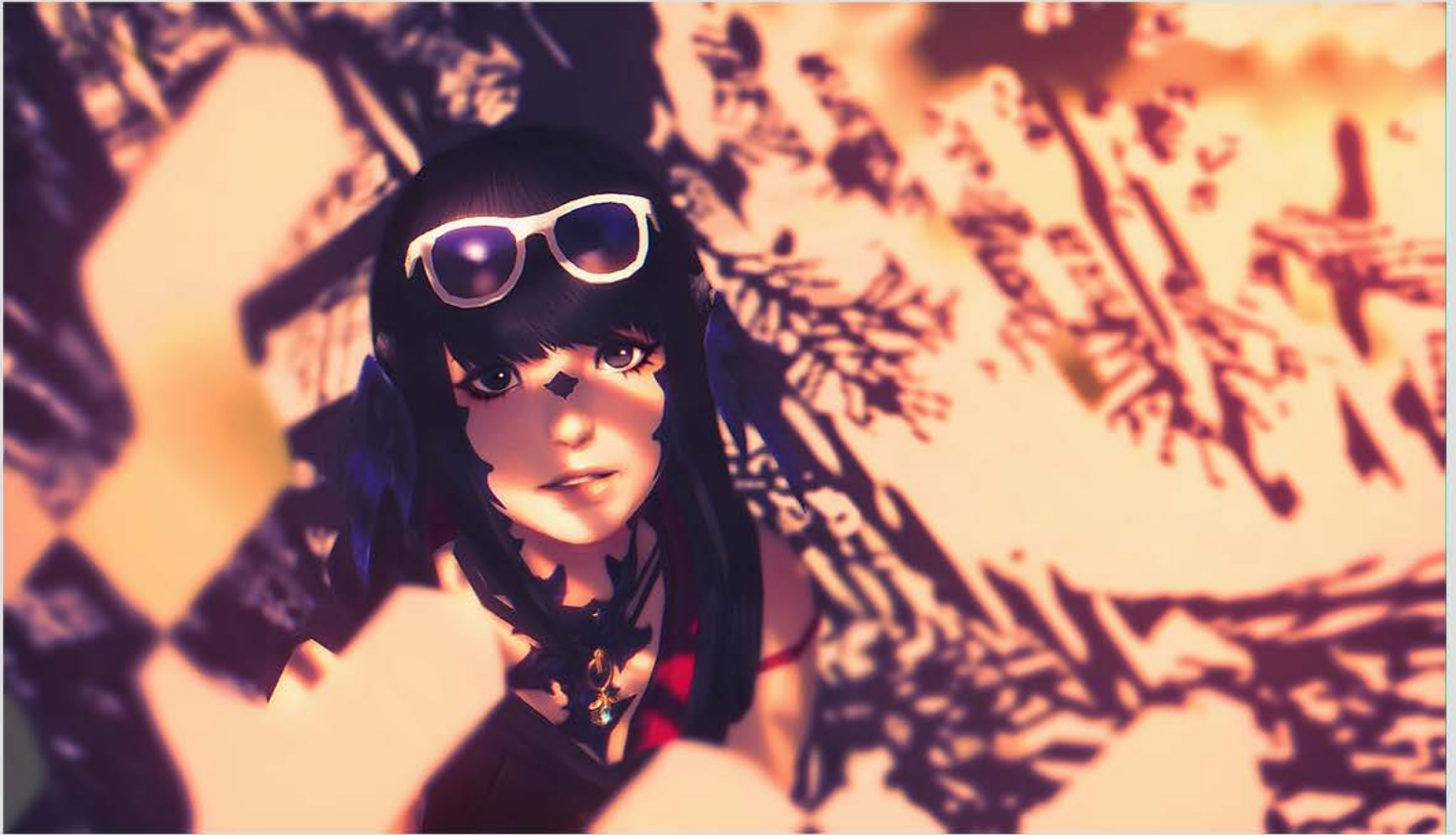


Indranil



# SCREENSHOTS CORNER!

Zero



Lucida





# SCREENSHOTS CORNER!

Eliana



Gothica



# SCREENSHOTS CORNER!

Erma



Laureall



# SCREENSHOTS CORNER!

Brock



Nova



# THE BLACK WALTZ ART GALLERY

Take a moment to gaze upon art made by your fellow FC mates.



Diana



Vahn'a

Pearlescent



Akura





Yuzuyu



Kouya

# THE OPEN HOUSE

Tour around in these fabulous housing designs!

Featuring: McWaltz!



Mufinella Pemstein



# THE OPEN HOUSE



Mufinella Pemstein





# THE OPEN HOUSE



Mufinella Pemstein



# Interview with . . .

# Astro Logian



## **So how did you find out about the Black Waltz?**

I believe it was back when Astro Logian first ventured into Jenova. One day, I was just in Ul'dah and saw a shout about an FC recruiting. This was technically my return to Final Fantasy XIV so I figured I'd check out the local groups. I took the invite and haven't looked back.

## **Tell us a little bit about the inspiration behind your character?**

In high school, I played way more Final Fantasy XI than I should have. When I heard about A Realm Reborn, I played at launch. I ended up taking a few years off though. In 2019, a coworker at the time mentioned Twitch was doing some promo and he was going to play. I decided I'd join back in, but start over. He and I were discussing silly names after we watched a certain YouTube video. In the video, multiple people were saying how they feel "Astrologian" was pronounced. Sarcastically, I made an Au Ra and named her Astro Logian. I became a fan and have had little plans for changing her. What is really funny about the whole thing is that I had never played AST before. Now, it's my only healer at 80.

## **What is a special memory you have from this game and why?**

So I have some resistance when it comes to talking to strangers. I can be socially awkward. I didn't even type in Discord until being in it for at least a month. I didn't join VC until months after that. Eventually though, I ended up trying to get more involved. Coming out of my shell has been the best decision I made in regards to this game. One of my favorite memories in-game was our Halloween trivia/costume party. I still wear my Georgie costume from the IT movies when it's raining in-game.

I also am fond of the first little photo session I was invited to while literally lurking around. I remember it was Brock, Ryuma, Zero, Billie, and Joyous Uwu. I was ducking behind a pot. Ryuma told me to come join them. I was so happy to be a part of it. I have seen so many strong bonds between players in this game and our FC. Now I feel more involved and more like a friend who is spending time online with people than just playing a game with other players.

### **Are there any other games you place outside of FFXIV?**

I love playing so many games. I am the absolute worst at finishing games though. I absolutely love Marvel's Spider-Man for the PS4. I booted it up to play again recently and realized I was over 90% through the main story--I had to start over though because I want to actually complete it. I also play Minecraft with a few friends because I enjoy mindless games with great music. Current game that makes me hate life though: Fall Guys. I also picked up Super Smash Bros. not too long ago. Spirit Mode was developed by devs that I think personally hate me.

As for offline games, I have a tight group of friends that play Dungeons and Dragons and other board games. We have been playing King of Tokyo and Epic Spell Wars of the Battle Wizards: Duel at Mt. Skullzfyre. We also love Jackbox games, which Waltz plays every other weekend.

### **Is there a favorite mount and minion in the game, if so why?**

I absolutely love my Ugly Duckling minion. I ran Neverreap dungeon unsynced too many times to get it. I tried to take it to an FC member's house because they made a Ramen House. I had this idea of a photoshoot where my duck was terrified of being cooked.

As for mounts, I think I enjoy the ARR horses most as I love the primal music that plays with them (especially Shiva). I also have a favorite purchased mount: the whale. Why, you may ask? Because I don't believe subtlety at times!

### **Outside of games, what kind of music do you listen to?**

Back in college, I ran karaoke weekly at a nearby bar. I loved playing music from classic 70s pop/rock/funk all the way through the 80s and 90s, and then-current music (I'm in my early 30s so most of the music I loved was from before I was born). Heck, the first CD I ever took from my dad's collection was Styx "Greatest Hits!"

As of late though, I have some special go-to's for music. If I just want background sound, I love listening to old NES and SNES soundtracks. If I'm looking for more lyrical music, I go to synthwave music like the Midnight or symphonic metal or harder rock music like Nightwish. I am also a fan of music that inspires memes for some reason; I keep listening to "Astronomia" by Tony Igy (Coffin Dance song) and "Run Away," the Epic Sax Guy song, by Sunstroke Project and Olia Tira.

### **So what do you find yourself doing in the game most of the time?**

Since I am the absolute worst at finishing content, I tend to level jobs randomly. Recently, I've been wanting to get all jobs to 50+. Currently, I still have Warrior, White Mage, and Monk below 50. I think I've spent so much time playing ARR content that I truly love it. I'm sure I will have the same appreciation for the newer content once I spend more time in the zones. I want to get a better understanding of all jobs and later game mechanics. Eventually, I'll finish getting my crafters up. Because of the Firmament, I now have all crafters to 60+ which is great since they were all at 1 except a few when it started!

### **Do you have a favorite area in the game? And why.**

I love the snowy zones of Coerthas Central and Western Highlands. I guess it's because I just love the snow. Sometimes IRL, I enjoy going out after it has snowed late at night. To me, it is just quite peaceful and serene.

### **I am sure you know that the FC is big on little pets, what kind of dogs do you have?**

..I have two dogs. One is little Carlos. He's a Boston Terrier/Blue Heeler mix. The other is Rowdy, he's a giant dumb ball of fur that is afraid of the sound his claws make on the floor so he walks backwards on tile. He's a Blue Heeler/hound mix. We are beyond happy to have these loveable poop machines in our lives.

### **Aside from gaming, do you have other hobbies?**

About two years ago, I became a first-time home buyer. Since then, I've been working on new projects like woodworking and remodeling. We are currently remodeling our basement bathroom. I never knew how peaceful breaking tile and concrete could be until I demoed that room, haha. My next big wood projects I plan to do after we finish the basic remodel with floor and paint, is I want to build a custom bar where the top is made from resin and an assortment of tabletop dice. I also want to make an arcade cabinet with a custom machine inside.

### **What is the tip or advice you would give to your fellow FC-mates?**

Canadian Bacon in America is not called Canadian Bacon in Canada. JK!

For advice, I would say that there is so much content to this game, that players are still learning even the smallest things when they hit the end game. Don't get frustrated on drops or clears as things grow and change. There is always another challenge in this game.

# Eorzean Chronicles

## A deeper look into the lore of FFXIV

### 6: Imperial Legatae, Gaius and Nael

Imperial Legions are often renowned for their brutality, effectiveness, and technology. The fate of Eorzea has been shaped by many armies, but the two primary battalions that would affect the lands before the rise of the Warrior of Light would be the XII and XIV Imperial legions. Gaius Van Baelsar, the Imperial Legatus of the XIV legion, leads the initial invasion against the Eorzean people into the freshly weakened Ala Mhigo city-state after a bloody civil war, capturing it with minimal effort and subduing its people in the name of the Empire. Gaius had greater sights than just Ala Mhigo, however; the long battle of 'salvation' for the Eorzean city-states from themselves and their primal influences ensued thereafter.

Gaius' advances into Eorzea were met with blood and steel as the Eorzeans pushed back, the conflict eventually leading to Mor Dhona at Silvertear where the Battle of Silvertear Skies takes place. Here the Legatus would suffer the loss of his dreadnaught flagship, the Agrius, the great wyrm Midgardsormr coiling himself around the dreadnaught in a self-sacrifice to stop the advance. This action had other consequences that could later be exploited; the destruction of the Agrius had broken a seal in the central lake where a mass of aether was hidden beneath, permitting its escape. Not wanting to risk angering beast tribes and the resulting primal summons with the now rich aether environment, Gaius withdraws the XIV legion back to Ala Mhigo. Their retreat afforded ten years of calm between the Empire and the Eorzeans.

The Garlean Empire does not like its plans to fail, nor is it the most patient in letting its enemies sort themselves out and perhaps eventually see them come crawling to their feet for salvation. Emperor Solus zos Galvus would resurrect Project Meteor in response to Gaius' failures at Silvertear. Nael Van Darnus led the VII Imperial Legion into Eorzea and began work on Project Meteor.

Gaius and Nael had different ideas on how to stop the primal influences; Gaius believed conquering and subduing its people would be enough, while Nael believed more would be required. Nael wanted to release the Allagan magic known as Meteor upon the Eorzeans and devastate the land and its inhabitants for good. To do this, Nael would need to gain control over the crimson moon, Dalamud. Eorzeans would learn of Nael's intents, leading to the Eorzean Alliance reforming along with the three Grand Companies: Adders, Maelstrom, and the Flames. United together, they began to work to defend their home against the looming apocalypse.

Gaius and the XIV legion were instructed to help Nael carry out the project, however he began to secretly aid the alliance to stop Nael from unleashing Meteor. During pursuit of Dalamud, Nael would succumb to its influences. Nael was eventually defeated by the Warriors of Light even with the power and influence of Dalamud on her side. Her final act would not be death, but to become an aetherial energy, disappearing into the unknown. Project Meteor ended with her death, but not before additional devastating consequences. Monsters began to appear in its wake and Dalamud continued its apocalyptic descent until the battle of Carteneau. During the battle, Bahamut broke free from his seal and caused the Seventh Umbral Calamity. Louisoix, leader of the Scions of the Seventh Dawn, sent the battling heroes into a rift for their safety before sacrificing himself to reseal Bahamut. The aftermath of this calamity would begin the Seventh Umbral Era, where our Warriors of Light start their journey.



---

# What's New In Waltz?

---

## *A Monthly Highlight*

Last month, Waltz hit the Golden Powerball (+/- 5) on August 8, 2020, but there was unfortunately no winner! Due to the 5.3 patch releasing on August 10, the following Golden Powerball was delayed until Wednesday, August 12. With a noticeably large turnout, and entries numbering ninety, the Golden Powerball was updated to have a rule of 10 modifier (meaning the person's number could be plus or minus 10). In a remarkable turn, the winner of the Golden Powerball was Snow Bloodsport with the number 663 on the dot! Snow secured the entire 50 million pot with the entire Waltz family looking on. Congratulations, Snow!



The second Waltz Super Smash Bros. Ultimate tournament was held August 16. Ten participants entered and the grand prize of 1 million gil went to N'zihn Tia!

Waltz Trivia Night rounded up the August events. This event had a huge turnout! Winners for the trivia contest included:

- First prize (2.5 million gil):** Grimm'thera Skogkatt
- Second prize (1.5 million gil):** Winter Briodyr
- Third prize (500,000 gil):** Makotou Kino



So good, it'll crit your xenoglossy.



# THANK YOU

Thank you to the following for their efforts in making this issue possible:

**Jurina Kurenai:** Interviewer

**Diana Starborn:** Graphics Designer, Photog

**Mufinella Pemstein:** Editor

**Freya Stormfall:** Editor, Writer

**Brock Hampton:** Cover Design, Graphics Designer

**Zero Nox:** Graphics Designer

**Kitika Sindari:** Writer

**Vahn'a Minerva:** Content Provider

And YOU, our awesome readers!

See you next issue!