



Lyrical Spell Magazine

2016 April

PERSONA

ALIA TEMPORA • WILL BLACK • BLACKBIAR • CASSETT ROBBERY
and many more...

Hello, darlings!

Wouldn't it be amazing...so incredibly amazing, if you could pack your bags and go...anywhere in the world. A place where everything is calm and peaceful, where people are happy and always smiling, where it's warm...not that overwhelming heat, but that perfect soft touch of the first rays of sunshine in the morning.

Isn't it true that Spring is the most wonderful season of them all?! It is impossible not to love it. So stop resisting it and go out and enjoy this beautiful weather. After all those gloomy, dark, grey days, this feels like Heaven. Blue skies, colorful flowers, rays of sunshine and green...God, I missed this green! It is an instant mood boost, whether you take a walk n the park or you're on your way to work, in the morning.

Although it's quite moody and unpredictable this year, Spring is finally here. And I honestly can't believe that I'm saying this. Time goes by so fast, lately. We jump from Christmas, to Easter and all the way to Summer in no time. But since this means that cold is finally gone for good, I couldn't be happier.

This „The Lyrical Spell“ magazine will be a little bit different than others- it will be light, bright and on in every corner will have a spring's mood. ☺

Thank you so much for your always so wonderful messages and emails, thank you for the warm welcome back, thank you for being here every day and for keeping up with us! We couldn't have done anything without you!

Thank you...From the bottom of our hearts!

Have a peaceful and beautiful day!

Kisses, LSM team ♥

*In this The Lyrical Spell magazine you will
find:*

Persona.....	4
Will Black.....	9
Blackbriar.....	10
Casket Robbery.....	11
Neko Atsume.....	13
Visual Kei.....	14
Reviews.....	16
Alia Tempora.....	26

The Lyrical Spell magazine is: Tamar van der List, Vita Kolosovaite, Yasmin Wijtvlet, Maayke Feenstra,
Drake Chrisdensen.

Facebook: [facebook.com/Lyrical-Spell-Magazine-114919232189557](https://www.facebook.com/Lyrical-Spell-Magazine-114919232189557)

Instagram: [instagram.com/lyricalspellmagazine/](https://www.instagram.com/lyricalspellmagazine/)

Twitter: @lyricalspellmagazine

All rights reserved to their rightful owners. No pictures are ours unless said otherwise. We try to keep each watermark on the pictures, sometimes it gets cut off in the editing process. If it bothers you, or you know the original photographer, tell us and we will make work of it right away.

Persona: „Always try create something beautiful and positive“

Persona- heavy music's band from Tunisia with very interesting and unique sound. In last month's magazine you could read an interview with their leader Jelena Dobric. Now Persona back to our magazine again, just as a headliner! Here you'll can read a nice chat with Jelena again.

„The Lyrical Spell“ magazine writing about you 2nd time and decided to set you as a headliner of April. How do you feel about that? We're really honored, Vita! ☺ Many thanks for this great extended interview! I'm looking forward to answering your questions!

You getting more and more international fans. Maybe you can notice any trends which country people supporting Persona the most? It's really difficult to say, we're getting so much support from all over the world! When we take everything into account – sales and streaming on Bandcamp, iTunes, Spotify etc... and people who are active on our page, sharing, liking, commenting on our posts and



sending us messages – maybe most of them are from the United Kingdom, United States, France, Canada, Belgium, Italy and other European countries; but there are some fans from Japan, Australia and South Korea as well.

What are your dreams and goals? To continue making music for many, many years more and get and create opportunities to share it with as many people as possible, especially by playing in festivals and concerts.

Who writes the songs, what are they about? it's mostly Melik and I who come up with the initial ideas and song structure, but after presenting it to the band, everyone works on the parts for their own instrument, and we eventually create the final form and arrangement for the song. In this album, songs are mostly about different moods and states of mind, caused or not by a specific situation. Sometimes they are just contemplation about life in general.

Describe your show, visual and musically. Conditions in Tunisia are not that great for creating and executing a great visual show (too many logistic details that often fail). Since we're usually invited to play in concerts that are already pre-organized, luckily we mostly don't have to worry

about technical aspects of it. We usually get provided with some cool lights, smoke machine, we even had fire once ;). And as for us being on stage – we just try to deliver unlimited amount of energy to the audience, to communicate with them and engage them in our performance, and like that create the whole atmosphere together with them.



What do you think about downloading music online? Do you mean illegal music download? ;) I think we've all done that at some point, with music, movies, video games... There are situations where you have no choice, like this one for example: because of Tunisian currency and law here, there is no way to have a normal functioning PayPal account, or a bank account (credit card) with foreign currency. Tunisian currency that cannot be exchanged and isn't valid outside of

Tunisia. So imagine you want to buy a digital or physical album of a band you love from any other country in the world. How will you pay online to get it? You can't ☹️ Also, there are no shops that import and sell original CDs of metal or rock bands. So you just stick with YouTube streaming or eventual download, because you can't listen to your music otherwise. This is probably not a very common case, but unfortunately it exists, and probably not only in Tunisia. Another extreme case is simply not having enough money to spend on that (I was in that situation so many times while being a student, but once you start working, that stops being an excuse). In any other situation, people should definitely buy music from artists they love, because it's really tough out here. Even if you're not sure you want to spend money on it at first, download it for free and listen to it (nowadays you can find everything on YouTube anyway), but if you really like it and you have means to do it, please have enough respect to buy an official copy to help and support those musicians who spent days and months (and sometimes years) to create what you're listening to. Not to mention years of training and hours of practice that went into all that. It usually costs the same or less than having a lunch in a restaurant, coffee in Starbucks or buying a new clothing item, and we somehow choose not to skip one of those, but to download music for free instead. Not fair ;).

How does music affect you and the world around? My neighbors must be suffering a lot! :D Listening vocalizing and practice of any instrument can be really tough to stand for a long time, but luckily they are very patient ;). Music in general enriches everyone's life, being a musician or just being around one. Just listening to music stimulates so many different areas in one's brain, but playing a musical instrument practically engages every area



of the brain at once, and we can apply benefits of all that to other situations in life as well. In other words, music is something that everyone should experience because it brings you so many good things in general 😊.

What is the best advice which you've ever received? I must quote the entire paragraph here, it's advice from Ron "Bumblefoot" Thal, the guitarist of Guns 'n' Roses (<http://www.bumblefoot.com/> ; <https://www.facebook.com/bumblefoot>). He is extraordinarily kind, wise and helpful person, besides his being a brilliant musician. We had the pleasure and honor to play "November Rain" with him on stage, in August 2013 in Tunisia. Here goes the advice, it's from one of his interviews: "1. Be on time. By "on time" I mean "be early." Make sure you're there for when you need to be — wait in your car, communicate, let them know 10 minutes early that you'll be there in 5 minutes, and walk in 5 minutes later. 2. Be prepared. By "prepared" I mean "overly prepared." Know more than you need to. If you're gonna lay guitar parts, know the drum grooves and where all the accents and up-beats and fills and breaks are, know the bass lines... When the bassist doesn't show and they freak out and you say, "I know the bass part. I can lay it down," you'll be the MVP 3. Be cool. And by that I mean, be a calm, relaxed, easy-going, soothing presence in the room. When everyone is contagiously breaking into panic and stress mode, you'll be their voice of reason without even trying. Players can be replaced — people are chosen by who others want to spend their time with."

What is your motto or the advise you living by? Always be kind and always try to see and bring out the best in people. If you have nothing nice to say to or to do for someone, don't say anything and don't do anything. Instead of generating negativity – this world is already saturated with it – always try create something beautiful and positive.

If I was to turn your MP3 player right now, what five artists/songs would I see in your recently played list. Hmm, right now that would be Leprous (albums "Bilateral", "Coal" and "Congregation"), Earthside (album "A dream in static"), Riverside (album "Love, Fear and the Time machine"), Dream Theater (album "The Astonishing") and Renaissance, a prog rock band from the '70s that I discovered thanks to a friend (random songs from random albums).

If you could go open up for any artist on tour right now who would it be? Paying attention to the genre as well, that would be Nightwish, Lacuna Coil or Delain.

Which famous musicians do you admire? Why? Bumblefoot, because I had a chance to



meet him personally and appreciate his professionalism, talent and personality; Besides him, I'm so impressed with amazing talent of Freddie Mercury and Kate Bush, both as composers and performers.

How do you handle mistakes during a performance? Best way to handle them is to just move on and forget that they ever happened. Focus on the present moment and give your best, any mistake can be entirely forgotten and even pass unnoticed if you're convincing and confident enough after it.

Do you get nervous before a performance or a competition? During my years of music school I've had so many concerts and competitions (I have master degree in piano performance, classical formation), and from that point of view I can tell you that it's much scarier to play alone on stage, surrounded with silent audience focused on your every tone ;).



Playing with the band in a relaxed atmosphere is an absolute pleasure, there is some adrenaline present, but it's the one of a good kind that just gives you extra energy.

How often and for how long do you practice? I try to practice regularly – every day or almost every day, and I feel really bad when I have to skip a day due to other work. Ideally, I spend about 1h30 or even a bit more vocalizing and singing, and about 1h30 practicing piano (exercises, some pieces that I like). I didn't have to prepare a piano recital or learn difficult program for quite some time, otherwise it would be necessary to practice at least 3-4h a day. The rest of my time I like to spend composing music, and that can take hours without me noticing ;).

Do you teach music? I do, both piano and voice. Besides a lot of piano playing, music theory, solfeggio, harmony, history of music etc... during my studies, we also had few classes where you learn how to teach. But in this case, I think the experience is the best teacher. Every student is different and there's basically no "formula" or a possibility to just stick to a method of teaching. You need to adapt a lot, be creative, find new and interesting ways to guide your students, while trying to understand their musical personality and help them develop it. Most important is to preserve their love for music and the instrument they chose.

What's the most 'rock star' thing that you've ever done? I wish I could remember! :D I don't see myself as someone with 'rock star' attitude, but maybe sometimes, when encountered with someone who behaves in a way I can't tolerate (usually someone unprofessional or rude), I refuse to waste my time with diplomacy and just say straight what I have to say, openly showing my annoyance. And if asked, I demand a vegan meal ;). Can't compromise with that either. Not sure if any of this qualifies ;).

If you had to give up music – what would you do to be creative? I would probably like to be a writer specialized in crime/thriller genre :D.

Strangest venue or gig you've ever played? The weirdest place and gig was the one I never showed up for actually :D. It was a long time ago, before Nesrine (bass) joined the band. Once we were hired to play in some cultural youth center here in Tunisia, in not such a nice part of Tunis. The money was good, but the conditions were weird from the beginning - they first said we'll play indoors, then changed it to outdoors the last minute, without even having the proper sound system. Besides the neighborhood there being weird, I think the weather was bad too. It wasn't even a real a metal concert, just a gig for money, the organizers didn't even care what we played or how many people were on stage, as long as there was someone playing something. So the guys from the band decided to spare me and they just went to do it by themselves. I only know how horrible it was from their stories ;).

Do you have any other projects you would like your fans to know about? It's not even a real project yet, because there's never enough time to progress quickly, but I have many piano pieces and songs of my own that are still in "work in progress" phase. Some of them are finished, some of them aren't, but none of them are properly recorded and that's not my priority yet. I have many new ideas coming up all the time, both for my project and Persona, and hopefully I'll start realizing some of them soon! Here's my official Facebook page (that I only made several months ago, I'm not very good in self-promotion ;)): <https://www.facebook.com/jelena.persona.dobric/> , you can follow me there.

Thank you for your time! Now tell your final word. I enjoyed this interview very much, Vita, you've asked some really interesting questions! Thanks for making Persona the headliner in this Lyrical Spell Magazine and keep up the great work!



Will Black: “ I've learned to make it fun and work it into the show.”

Will Black- musician from Canada. We had a possibility to have a nice chat with him about music which he creating. Read, enjoy and support.



-Hey! How are you? I'm great Vita, thanks for inviting me to talk about the rock n' roll music I create.

-Describe your music in 3 words. New. Classic. Rock.

-From where you get inspiration for the music which you writing? I normally start with song titles that I come up with and let me creative thoughts flow from there. I hate writing, so I have to have deadlines and projects setup for me to actually sit down and put the time in to get new material done.

-As I know you released your album „Dangerously Close” in 2013. Any ideas for the new songs/projects/albums in the future? My latest album is called "Cry Like Hell" and is another full band rock album of original tunes. If you like Bon Jovi vs. Aerosmith with a shot of Springsteen, then this is the kind of music you want to hear :) Fans have til April 26 to pre-order the album at www.WillBlack.com/3 - go take a look and see what I've come up with so far.

-Which song and why is the anthem of your life? "Born To Run" by Bruce Springsteen. Perhaps the greatest rock record ever recorded. The energy and message behind it are my mantra.

-Now you have a tour in UK. Any plans for the other corners of Europe? I'd like to eventually get onto the continent and perform throughout Europe. When I was a young kid I used to live on a Canadian Military base in Lahr, Germany - so I've been to many different places in Europe. The fans in Europe still love rock music - thank God!

-Any funny situations during concerts or recording sessions? I constantly break guitar strings during my live shows. I've learned to make it fun and work it into the show. Passion triumphs over technical ability every time in the live setting.

- Thank you so much for your time. „Lyrical Spell Magazine” wish to you have the time of your life in this tour. Is there anything you would like to tell for our readers? If you like classic rock and are searching for a new artist to continue carrying that flame, please take a moment to visit my website at www.WillBlack.com - lots of music to listen to there.

Thanks! WB

Blackbriar

Zora Cock



Blackbriar is a Dutch melodic metal band. "I met Rene at the music college we both attended. Together, we did several music projects, completely different from what we do now." Zora tells me about the band's history. "The songs we wrote then were dark pop songs. At some point, we went to a Slash concert and saw Halestorm perform. We were both overwhelmed by it and thought 'this is our calling!' From that moment we

started looking for band members to complete the line-up and found Bart, Frank and last but not least, Robin."

The band has released a few singles until now. They are now crowdfunding for their debut EP "Fractured Fairytales". "After releasing our latest single 'Until Eternity' we've had such an amazing response from everybody. This made us realise that it is now time to record our first EP. We can't wait to let everybody hear our songs. We will also be investing our own funds but they are unfortunately limited, so that's why we've started the crowdfunding!" I asked Zora what the single "Until Eternity" is about. "Until Eternity is about a love that never dies. It's about two people who always meet again in every life they live." If people want to support Blackbriar in their crowdfunding, they can choose out of this: the digital EP, hardcopy EP, the official band shirt, limited A3 poster, guitar strings used for the EP and a signed snare drum head. "The handwritten lyrics and the necklace used for the Until Eternity video have already been sold out!" "Fractured Fairytales is been on my mind for a really long time now, I even thought about it being our band name in the beginning. It's magical but dark and I like that. It's also going to be a featured song on the EP." Zora describes Blackbriar music as melodic metal, it's powerful, mystical and mostly unique. "I like writing about romance, I can't help it. And my lyrics usually have a dark theme." "I look up to Halestorm of course, because they were the inspiration for starting this band." Zora also loves In This Moment, Flyleaf, Periphery, Lana Del Rey and she has always been a big fan of Kate Bush. Making music has always been her plan, she describes it as a tunnel vision. "I even wrote my own songs when I was about 6 years old!" The best memory Zora has of Blackbriar is the shooting of the music video for Until Eternity. "What an amazing experience, I could do that every day!"

Do you have any kind of advice for our readers?

"My advice would be to never stop trying. Try again. Fail again. Fail better (Samuel Beckett). You will always get negativity no matter what you do. If you liked our single Until Eternity, please keep an eye on us and check out our crowdfunding for our EP!"

By Tamar

“Heavy, unrelenting, and filled with energy.”

CORY SCHEIDER CASKET ROBBERY

Casket Robbery is an up and coming death metal band created by the minds of Cory Scheider (Luna Mortis, Epicurean, Echoterra) and Dustin Foesch. They have firmly established themselves as a brutal, heavy hitter in the live show realm by hitting the road hard after their first short EP release. Last year they took the time to re-evaluate and plan a devastating debut album release for 2016. They quickly brought in Patrick Small on bass, and Greg Mueller to fill the drum spot. They brought on their own Cory Scheider to track, engineer, and produce a majority of Evolution of Evil. The track "Pray for Death" features a solo from John Laux (Warbringer) and "Undead Living Hell" features a guest speaking role by horror filmmaker Cory Udler. With the help of Chris Wisco (Novembers Doom, Jungle Rot) to mix the album and Cody Ratley (Villains, Darke Complex) to master it, this will truly be a must have album for 2016.

“When we decided to do a full length album we knew we had to pull out all the stops. We wanted to deliver the best sounding album that we could. We just did our thing.”, Cory tells me. “We made the most brutal and catchy album possible. The lyrics have a dark meaning. The music and sound reflects the thoughts in the music. We recorded most of the album ourselves. Greg did his drums, Cody Ratley engineered my rhythm guitar tracks and then I recorded the rest of the album in my studio. We took our time and put all our energy into this recording. I think the listener will be able to hear that. We had Chris Wisco (Jungle Rot, Novembers Doom) mix it and Cody Ratley (Villains/Youth Forever) mastered it. It sounds massive!” Casket Robbery is trying to find support for touring. “We have been trying to book some DIY tours but mostly the promoters have fallen through for us. We have big plans with this and we need someone to give us a little support to get off the ground. Until we do, we have the surrounding Midwest area booked up until about August/September. We are staying really busy.” Cory his favorite song of Evolution of Evil is "Pray for Death". “It was really fun writing the song



and the chorus turned out to be really fun. I also really dig what John Laux did with the guest solo. He really made the song come to life. I have always been a fan of his playing and what he did in Warbringer so it was also amazing having him be a part of our album!”

Cory also was a part of one of Lyrical Spell Magazine’s favorites Mercy Isle. He made the decision to leave the band. “A few things had been going on that made me decide to leave. There was most likely going to be a scheduling conflict between that band and Casket Robbery and I could not put either band through it. Unfortunately, both bands require a lot of work from me. I was doing a lot of recording and production work in both bands. Juggling two full time bands and working full time on top of that to make a living just was not possible. Casket Robbery is more personal to me, it's like a direct reflection of who I am. So I had to make a choice. Mercy Isle had become more like a guitarist for hire thing and slowly became less and less personal or fulfilling as well, so the choice for me was clear.”

“I pull a lot of inspiration from horror movies. The "darker side" of life is a big part of our subject matter. Everyone is evil in their own way.”, Cory tells me. “We like to touch on some historical events and some of those evil thoughts that people have. Dustin does a great job tapping into some of those things. I feel like my role is to write the soundtrack to those thoughts.” Cory his biggest musical influence has been Dave Mustaine. “He is a great guitarist and songwriter. I never really appreciated the "songwriting" aspect of music until I got older and realized that it is rare to find a good song. Anyone can write cool riffs but it takes a lot of talent to put that together and make sense of it.”

Do you have any kind of advice for our readers?

“Keep supporting music and artists. It's a really crazy world, do what you love, support what you love. That's all that matters.”

By Tamar

NEKO ATSUME APP REVIEW



Neko Atsume: Kitty Collector (in Japanese: *ねこあつめ*) is a cat collecting game developed by Hit-Point for iOS and Android, released on October 20, 2014. The app falls into the category “Casual Gaming”. Although the game already exists for one and half year, it keeps getting more popular each and every day. Fun facts: on September 15, 2015, Google and Hit-Point teamed up for Game Week with Google Play to produce a live video event called Real Neko Atsume (*リアルねこあつめ*), which was broadcasted on YouTube from a Cat café in Osaka. By

May 2015, the game had achieved 4 million downloads for Android and iOS combined. On August 20, 2015, Neko Atsume won the CEDEC Awards for best game design. As of December 4, 2015, the game had achieved 10 million downloads. In January 2016, the game was honored as one of the Top 5 Mobile Games of 2015 by GameSpot, who cited the game as "intensely quirky" and "increasingly compelling".

Of course, as a cat lover couldn't resist downloading the game as well. I have many friends who were playing Neko Atsume, and I hadn't heard a bad thing about it. So, I found out there are 49 cats to collect, which includes the 17 very rare cats that are only attracted to certain kinds of food or goodies. You can buy these goodies in the shop, with the “normal” grey fishes (“niboshi” (*にぼし*, small dried sardines), or with the gold coloured fishes. You get these fished from the cats that visit your yard. In your yard you can watch the cats, take photos of them which can be saved in an album and receive gifts (memento's) from them.

Your yard may seem small at first, and there is only one expansion available. After that you can choose to remodel your yards into one of these four designs: Zen, Rustic, Modern, or Western. There is no end to the game, but cats will only appear when the player continues to put food out for them. Each visit is tracked by the game, and logged in the Catbook.



Rare cats have a unique interaction with their favorite goodies. Each cat has a unique name, personality and appearance. You also can rename the cats. Many of the rare cats in the English version of the game are named after famous people both fictional and non-fictional, with the names of the cats being puns like Lady Meow Meow (Lady Gaga) Mr. Meowgi (Mr. Miyagi), Chairman Meow (Chairman Mao), Guy Furry (Guy Fieri), Saint Purrrick (Saint Patrick), Xerxes IX (Xerxes I), and Joe DiMeowgio (Joe DiMaggio).

While Peaches is not considered a rare cat, she is harder to find than the others. The main reason that Peaches rarely visits is the capricious personality, a picky personality.

The developer, Yutaka Takasaki said that his goal was to create a game that anyone (even children) could enjoy without investing a lot of skill and time. Fun fact: Yutaka Takasaki loves cats himself!

I do like the app very much, but it kind of become a slur when you're going to actually sit and watch if cats come in your yard. The fact that you can only expand your yard only once is also kind of weird to me. I like the remodeling choices, but they do not add a difference to the game (except for the placing of the goodies/food). Of course, I will keep on playing until I have found every cat! Also, the fact that you don't need wifi for it totally rocks!

By Tamar

What is a Visual Kei?

Visual kei (Japanese: ヴィジュアル系), is a style among Japanese musicians. It is mostly known for the use of make-up, anime like hairstyles and colourful costumes. Most of the time it goes hand in hand with androgynous aesthetics. Androgyny is the combination of masculine and feminine characteristics. Visual kei acts play various genres, including those considered by some as unrelated to rock such as electronic, pop, etc. Visual kei began in the early 1980's, pioneered by

bands such as X Japan, D'erlanger, Buck-Tick and Color. The term visual kei is believed to come



from one of X Japan's slogans, "Psychedelic Violence/Crime of Visual Shock".

Often you can recognize a visual kei band from their appearance. Most of the musicians dye their hair in all the colours of the rainbow. The hair is mostly long and layered, because that way it

is easy to style. Sometimes they even choose for mohawks. When it comes to the clothing, it is a big mix of every subculture that exists; rock, punk, gothic, fetish, victorian, suits and skinny jeans. Visual kei puts a huge emphasis on artistic freedom, shock value and metro sexuality. Like I explained in the intro, most looks are androgynous. Some musicians always dress up as a woman, like Mana van Moi Dix Mois (ex-Malice Mizer), Isshiki of Kiryu and Jasmine You of Versailles. But some bands like The GazettE choose for a more aggressive styling which reminds of BDSM.

Visual kei has it's very own subculture, mostly known for the high tolerance. People of every size, colour, gender are welcome. Because visual kei is a mix of a lot of genres, you are much less likely to be labeled as 'wannabe'. A lot of people in the visual kei community love to dress like it, but it's not an outfit to just throw on if you're going shopping. Usually these big looks are saved for the concerts. Of course, there is always criticism, mostly directed to newer visual kei bands. Accusing them to "having lost the spirit of their forefathers, copying each other and becoming all the same".

If I made you enthusiastic with this article about visual kei, check out my review of Exist Trace's newest EP This Is Now in this magazine. Exist Trace is a Japanese visual kei metal band, consisting entirely of female members.

By Tamar

Reviews



Casket Robbery is an up and coming death metal band created by the minds of Cory Scheider (Luna Mortis, Epicurean, Echoterra) and Dustin Foesch. They have firmly established themselves as a brutal, heavy hitter in the live show realm by hitting the road hard after their first short EP release. Last year they took the time to re-evaluate and plan a devastating debut album release for 2016. They quickly brought in Patrick Small on bass, and Greg Mueller to fill the drum spot. They brought on their own Cory Scheider to track, engineer, and produce a majority of *Evolution of Evil*. The track "Pray for Death" features a solo from John Laux (Warbringer) and "Undead Living Hell" features a guest speaking role by horror filmmaker Cory Udler.

We start off with a blast, "Annabelle's Hell". I just had my volume a bit too high, and I expected an intro, which wasn't there. Ouch! But nevertheless it is a good song. "Blood Bathory" is really brutal. I don't know if this is really my cup of tea but I will try to finish this review anyway. There is one thing I really like about "Malevolent Milwaukee Massacre" and those are the samples of someone talking in it. "Final Chapter" seems to be less brutal, kinda leaning more to death metal, and I like that. "Undead Living Hell" has an intro, which I expected at the beginning of the album, it seems like those two songs were switched at the last second. "Pray For Death" is again really heavy, just like "Curse of the Night Stalker" and "Cyanide Skies". I liked "Encroaching Darkness", it is a very good song. "The Asylum" is the last song of *Evolution of Evil* has to be my favorite of this album. They saved the best for last.

Like I said, this kind of metal is really not my thing (maybe it is after listening it a couple more times), but I did my best to give it a fair review. I really liked the guest speaking pieces, they really give the music some kind of different atmosphere.

By Tamar

Blood Stain Child Epsilon



Blood Stain Child is a Japanese metal band from the city of Osaka. The band's musical style combines modern melodic death metal with electro-industrial and trance. The band formed under the name "Visionquest" in 1999, but reformed under the name Blood Stain Child in 2000. Epsilon is Blood Stain Child's fifth studio album and first release on Coroner Records/Pony Canyon. It's also the first to feature vocalist Sophia and drummer Gami (after the departure of vocalist Sadew and drummer/founding-member Violator). All compositions except "Electricity," are done by Ryu. Epsilon had 2 guest artists on the album: Claudio Ravinale – screams on "Forever Free" and "S.O.P.H.I.A" and

Ettore Rigotti – vocals on "Forever Free" and "Moon Light Wave", electronic percussion on "Forever Free".

The reason I chose to do a "Random Review" this time, is because I came across this wonderful band while listening to BabyMetal. From the first song of the album ("Sirius VI") to the last one ("Sai-Ka-No") I was hooked. In my opinion, the electronic elements fit the death metal perfectly. And you do not hear me say that often. For Blood Stain Child, it just works, even with the trance. Although the band is Japanese, you don't hear it right away. Most lyrics are in English. They don't have that typical "J-rock sound". My favorite songs of the album are "S.O.P.H.I.A." and "Electricity".

If I must explain the sound to you, it sounds like an Japanese version of Amaranthe (or is Amaranthe the Swedish version of Blood Stain Child?), high on rainbows and unicorns. I love it, and I think you all should check our Blood Stain Child!

The latest release of the band is Last Stardust (EP)(2014). Epsilon was the last album with Sophia on vocals, after she left the band, she was replaced by Kiki. The band has gone through a lot of changes since the release of Epsilon (2011), and I hope they come back soon with a new album!

By Tamar

THIS IS NOW (EP) EXIST TRACE



Exist Trace is a Japanese visual kei metal band, consisting entirely of female members, lead vocals : Jyou (ジヨウ), lead guitar : Omi (乙魅), rhythm guitar, vocals : Miko (ミコ), bass Naoto (猶人) and drums : Mally (マリ). The members originate from Tokyo, and initially formed in June 2003. The founding members are Jyou, Naoto and Mally, who were searching for guitarists, and met Miko and Omi. To date, the band has released seven singles, five EPs, and a compilation album.

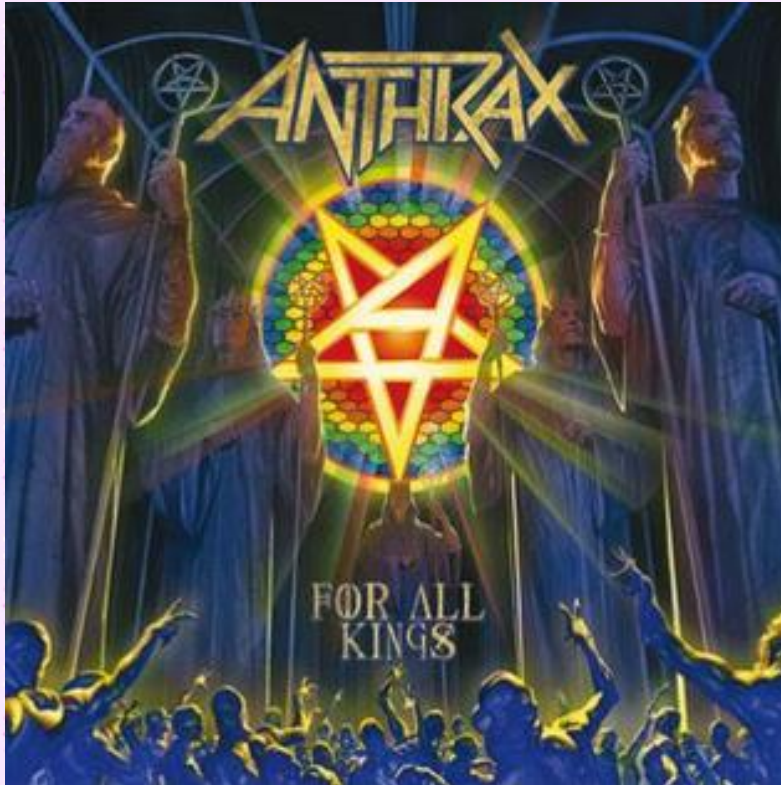
They have also appeared on ten omnibus albums as well as two live DVDs featuring several bands on the Shizuoka-based Sequence Records label. This Is Now was released on March 16, 2016.

Today (16-3-2016) I was just browsing through the recommended music tab on Spotify and came once again across Exist Trace. Not knowing their new EP released today! Great opportunity to review it! This Is Now starts with the title song, "This Is Now". Although I do not understand the lyrics, it sounds very uplifting. Kind of like all the visual kei metal bands (Maybe that is why I like them all?). With the second song, "Dream Rider" I was already shouting along, not knowing what I was shouting. I must say that this whole EP listens very well, no overly use of particular Japanese pop/rock things. No commercial stuff. Just good music. "Shout Out" makes me want to jump. "Neo-Japanese Heroin" on the other side does have more electronic pieces in it, but not in a bad way. It sounds like an anime intro! "Twing Wings" is a nice song but has a slower pace like the last song. We close the album off with "Blast", another great song with an awesome melody. The guitar solo also rocks!

Exist Trace has made another powerful EP, and they are once again ready to conquer the world. I look forward to hear more of them!

By Tamar

ANTHRAX
FOR ALL KINGS
MEGAFORCE, NUCLEAR BLAST



For All Kings is the eleventh studio album by American thrash metal band Anthrax, released on February 26, 2016. It is the band's first studio album to feature Jon Donais on lead guitar, replacing Rob Caggiano. I have been waiting a long time for Anthrax' new album, and I couldn't wait to review it.

For All Kings starts with "You Gotta Believe", right away, I started banging my head. Enough said right? "Monster at the End" has a less trash metal feel, it leans more towards the heavy metal side. The next song is the title track, "For All Kings". A perfect moshpit song! Exactly what I expect from Anthrax. The next song, "Breathing Lightning" starts off with a clean

guitar intro, and gets heavier every second. "Breathing Lightning" was the second single that was released. This chorus is a little less heavy than expected, but there is an amazing guitar solo! "Suzerain" is again great shredding work, just like "Evil Twin". "Blood Eagle Wings" on the other hand, sounds a bit different. The slower pace doesn't make it any less -if not more- heavy. This song requires multiple times listening before I could say anything about it. "Defend Avenge", "All of Them Thieves" and "This Battle Chose Us" are just very good songs with the Anthrax sound to it. With "Zero Tolerance" we've gone through all the new songs of the album. This is another great moshpit song!

Next on the album are four live tracks: "Fight 'Em 'Til You Can't", "A.I.R.", "Caught In A Mosh" and my personal favorite "Madhouse". These songs obviously ROCK, and I must say that the live recording quality is really good!

By Tamar

AMON AMARTH JOMSVIKING



Amon Amarth is a Swedish melodic death metal band from Sweden, founded in 1992. The band takes its name from the Sindarin, name of Mount Doom, a volcano in J. R. R. Tolkien's Middle-earth. Their lyrics mostly deal with Vikings, their mythology and their history, leading to the band often being labeled as Viking metal. The band is composed of vocalist Johan Hegg, guitarists Olavi Mikkonen and Johan Söderberg and bassist Ted Lundström. Jomsviking is their 10th studio album.

“The Jomsvikings and their world is the background for the story of a young man that is in love with a girl but unfortunately she's being married off. He accidentally kills a man when this happens and he has to flee, but he swears to have revenge and win her back. He can't let go of the past. He feels that he's been wronged and his life has been destroyed. The way the story evolves is not a happy story.” says vocalist Johan Hegg to Blabbermouth.

Jomsviking begins with “First Kill”, which has that exact Amon Amarth sound. “Wanderer” is also a very good song. What I noticed in these first two songs is that there are a lot more guitar solos in the songs, even if it's just for the melody over the chorus. I haven't heard that before in their music. Next is “On a Sea of Blood”, heavy mosh music! “One Against All” is a very good song just like the previous one, more I do not have to say about them. “Raise Your Horns” is one of those songs that would probably sound better live than in studio. “The Way of Vikings” and “At Dawn's First Light” both have very good melodies and are just good songs. “One Thousand Burning Arrows” has a guitar intro, which you hear in the rest of the song as well, this is a nice touch! “Vengeance Is My Name” is more heavy than the last song, but it is nice to hear both sides of Amon Amarth on one album. Next is “A Dream That Cannot Be”, which features Doro. I was really curious how this song would sound! And it seems that I am still puzzled about it... It is a nice song, and both Doro and Johans parts are good but the combination sounds a bit off. We have come to the last song of Jomsviking; “Back On Northern Shores”, a very good song with a nice melody, it also has that Amon Amarth atmosphere over it.

Amon Amarth did it again, their new album totally rocks! It is a very short review, but more I do not have to say about it, Jomsviking is Amon Amarth!

By Tamar

**KILLSWITCH ENGAGE
INCARNATE
ROAD RUNNER RECORDS**



Killswitch Engage is a metalcore band from the USA, formed in 1999, and consists out of five musicians; Adam Dutkiewicz (guitars), Joël Stroetzel (guitars), Mike D'Antonio (bass), Justin Foley (drums) and Jesse Leach (vocals). Incarnate is their seventh studio album.

The album starts with "Alone I Stand", a good song, with a good intro. The second song is Hate By Design. This song was released as the second single, along with a music video. It sets the tone for the rest of Incarnate. "Cut Me Loose" has a very soft chorus, while the rest of the song sounds brutal without it falling out of place. "Cut Me Loose" was the third single the band released from Incarnate. Next is "Strength Of The Mind", this was the first single that the

band released. It is a really good song, and I can see why they released that song first. It is not too heavy but gives you an idea what the rest of the album is like. "Just Let Go" has a great melody, this is probably my favorite song of the album, together with "Quiet Distress". They both have a lighter chorus instead of the heavy shredding. "It Falls On Me" is what I would call a metal-ballad. The pace is a lot slower, but there are still screams and heavy guitars. The rest of the songs I liked, but it was nothing different from the songs I heard already.

Maybe it's just the fact that metalcore isn't my favorite genre, which makes this review not completely fair. Therefore I won't give this album a rating. Overall I liked the album, and I would buy it!

By Tamar

Mercy Isle Storm (EP)



Mercy Isle was born in 2014. It is a bit of a long story, so here it is as the band tells us: "Kassandra was formerly in Orphonic Orchestra, a symphonic metal band which had shared shows with their friends and fellow musicians The Ottoman Empire, who later changed their name to Luna Mortis. Cory Scheider later joined Luna Mortis, and that was how the connection between Kassandra and Cory was made. Multi-instrumentalist Chad joined Orphonic Orchestra as keyboardist in 2007. Orphonic dissolved in 2008; Chad and Kassandra didn't. In November 2010, Chad joined modern hard rock band Second Soul on bass. The band started looking for a second guitarist and Kassandra suggested that they consider Cory as he had

the quality musicianship they'd need to match Second Soul guitarist Troy Stetina. Shortly after Cory joined Second Soul, they needed to find a new drummer. Cory suggested his friend and Casket Robbery bandmate Adam fill that role. That is how the Chad-Cory-Adam power package was born (since then, they've also played together in Luna Mortis, Casket Robbery, and now Mercy Isle). In 2012, Kassandra joined international community of female singers in metal Eve's Apple and performed with them at Metal Female Voices Fest (MFVF) in Belgium, meeting Joop de Rooij for the first time. They hit it off splendidly well. In 2014, after returning home from her third year performing in cover-music projects at MFVF, and with much support, encouragement, and demands to assemble a band from her friends and fans, Kassandra approached these talented men and asked them to join her in a new band." I couldn't have explained it better!

After the interview in LSM #1, we hadn't any time left to do the review of Mercy Isle's Storm. Joop asked me to do it whenever I could, and now is the time. Storm has four tracks: "I'm Gonna Make It", "Storm", "No One Will Save You" and "Uncaged". These four tracks show exactly what Mercy Isle can do. I think the best song on the EP is "Uncaged", but actually I can't choose. "I'm Gonna Make It" was also released as a single, also a really good song. Overall, I think this is a great EP! They have all the elements to become a very big and popular symphonic metal band. I am looking forward to a new album of them!

On the 15th of March 2016 Mercy Isle announced their new drummer Ywe Van Der Pol (ex Galanor, ex Android Soul, Team of Passion) and guest guitarist Sebas Honing (Equisa, Minor Giant, Van Halen Tribute 5150, solo artist) to the fold. Former guitarist Cory Scheider left to focus on pursuing other opportunities with his death metal band Casket Robbery. Former drummer Adam Maltby had the fortune of becoming the new business owner of tattoo shop Art Haus Ink, so he resigned to focus on on the shop.

"Mercy Isle: sanctuary for the outcasts and loners, the ones who've felt left behind and pushed aside. Here is your strength. Here is your voice. Here is your music. Welcome to Mercy Isle, Islander. Welcome home."

By Tamar

MOLLUST IN DEEP WATERS



Mollust was formed in 2011 with the idea of combining classical music and metal. The members are: Janika United (vocals, piano) joined Frank Schumacher (vocals, guitar), Sandrine B. (electric violin), Lisa H. (cello), John Hank (bass) and Daniel Wölfer (drums). In August 2013, Mollust was Luna M'Era newcomer of the year. In 2014 they made a new album called *In Deep Waters*, which was released on 25 September 2015.

Lets dive in, the album starts with "Ouverture Nr. 2". This song is an instrumental piece, and it is truly beautiful. A great intro for a great album! The next song is "Unschuld", it sounds really dark. I love the way that the classical instruments are incorporated within' the heavy metal guitars. The lyrics are in German, so i don't really understand them, but it sounds great! "Evenfall" is in English, I can't help but I keep saying it: I love the cello and the violin! The only (so called) "errors" is that I don't always like the melody of the vocals, some sound very strange to me. (But maybe that is because I don't know anything about classical music). Next up, "Paradis Perdu". I keep getting amazed by the range of Janika's voice. "Voices of the Dead" starts with a spoken intro, it sounds again really dark, just what I like in metal. In this song there is a choir, awesome. The sixth song is "Paradise on Earth", which is also great, just like "Lampedusa", the eight song. "Spring" on the other hand is a bit different from the rest. It is slower, and there are parts where there are no guitars so you can hear Janika's voice really good, also those parts with the violin and cello again, awesome! "König der Welt" starts instrumental, it makes you curious of what comes next. This song also has vocals again, which surprised me. "Number in a Cage" starts off very weird compared to the rest of the album. It is very light, until the guitars come in! It is the funniest song on the album. The verses are really light, uplifting and full of joy (so it seems), and then the chorus is very heavy and dark. The eleventh song on *In Deep Waters* is "Papa", the piano gives me chills, just like the rest of the song. "Passage Nostalgique" is an instrumental piece, which I absolutely love on this album, and I wish there we're more (but then again, I also love Janika's voice)! I think I can honestly say that Mollust makes me feel like I could appreciate classical music more than I already do. The rest of the songs are in German. "Sabrina" is an awesome song, I don't have more to say about it. "Erkönings Töchter" is more opera-like, also the choir is back. The last song is "Traumwelt" which translates to "dreamworld". In this song are almost no electric guitars. It's also nice to hear a softer side of Mollust. It makes a great outro for an epic album.

After listening to *In Deep Waters*, I know what the band means with opera metal. Mollust really set themselves apart, I've never heard something like this! The mix of German and English works really good. Like I said, "I think I can honestly say that Mollust makes me feel like I could appreciate classical music more than I already do." The band really takes you away on a journey, I listened the whole album at once, and repeated a big part of it!

By Tamar

SCARLET ANGER FREAK SHOW



Scarlet Anger is a Luxembourgish Thrash Metal band, founded in 2007 by vocalist Joe Block and guitarist Fred Molitor. Their first gigs were followed quite quickly by the release of a first EP, called *La Realidad Es Triste...*, whose successor *Kill The King* made the band noticeable on an international level for the first time. In between their shows, Scarlet Anger started gathering first ideas for the successor to "Dark Reign". Classic eighties and nineties comics and horror stories served as their main inspiration for what would later become their second album "Freakshow". Mastered by Jens Bogren, the new album has a more melodic approach. It will be released on March 19th 2016 via

Hänsel & Gretel / MIG Music.

Freak Show begins with "Awakening of the Elder God". From the beginning of this song it is clear that we can expect a very heavy, thrash album from Scarlet Anger. This song has some good riffs! "Attack of the Insidious Invade" and "On The Road To Salvation", are pure moshpit music. "The Haunted Place - House Of Lost Souls" intro could be a lot longer and creepier, but I like what the band did with it. The song is a lot slower than I expected. I only like the verses of this song, the chorus becomes kind of annoying. "Welcome to the Freak Show" is a good song, but I don't have more to say about it. "The Abominable Master Gruesome" has by far the best intro, and up till now my favorite song of Freak Show. Then starts "Through The Eyes Of The Sufferer", this song has like the previous song, this small guitar melody over it, it makes a nice change! "The Thing Without A Name" also has a lighter intro, which fades into metal around the 40th second. The song is just a typical thrash metal song, nothing bad about it. "Thing Without A Name" has a good solo in it! By the ninth song; "The Unbelievable Story Of A Stupid Boy" I was kinda surprised to hear some other influences than older thrash metal. I really like that song! We've come to an end, the last song on Freak Show is "Deadly Red Riding Hood". This song is not much different from the rest, except for the outro.

Scarlet Anger has really impressed me with *Freak Show*, mostly because I'm not a big thrash metal fan. I found myself really enjoying most of this album - which is a good sign!

By Tamar

ALIA TEMPORA

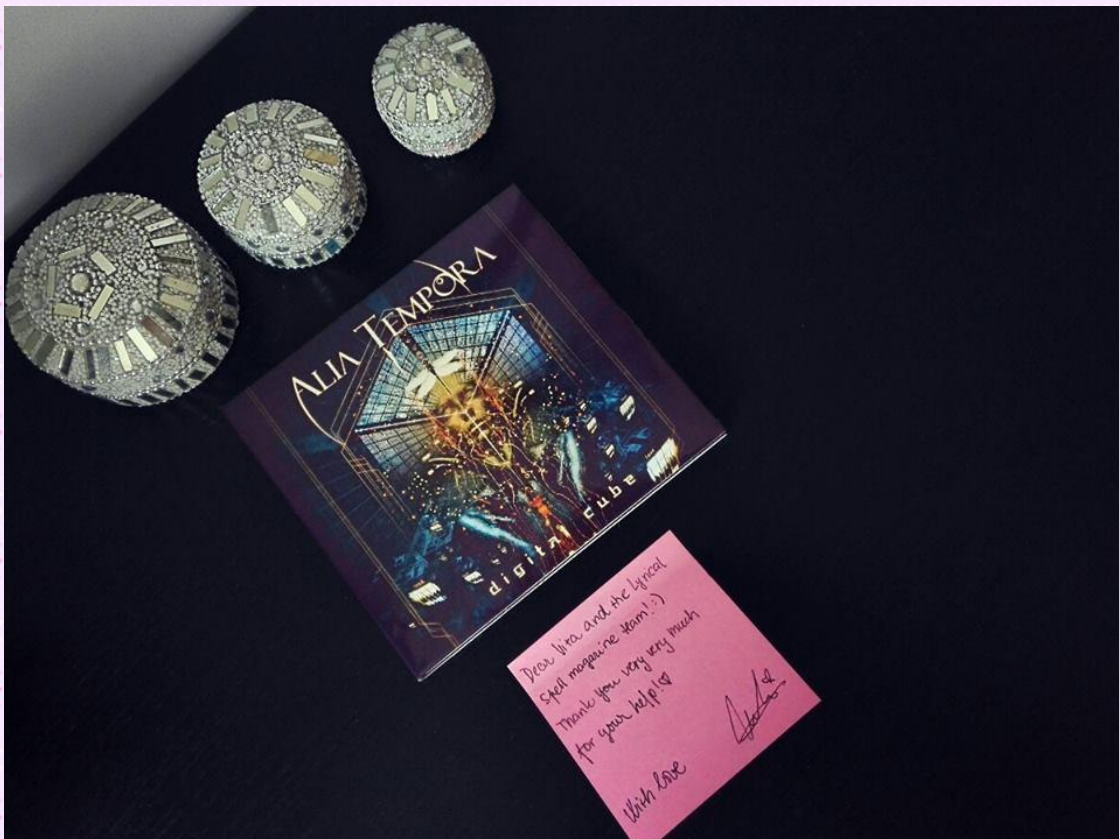
DIGITAL CUBE

I rarely falling in love with albums so fast, but this time „Digital Cube“ by Alia Tempora stolen my heart from the first minutes. The lyrics of the album are very close to me, music „catching“ minds from the first sounds. I'm living in this album's sound for about 3 weeks and it going everywhere together with me.

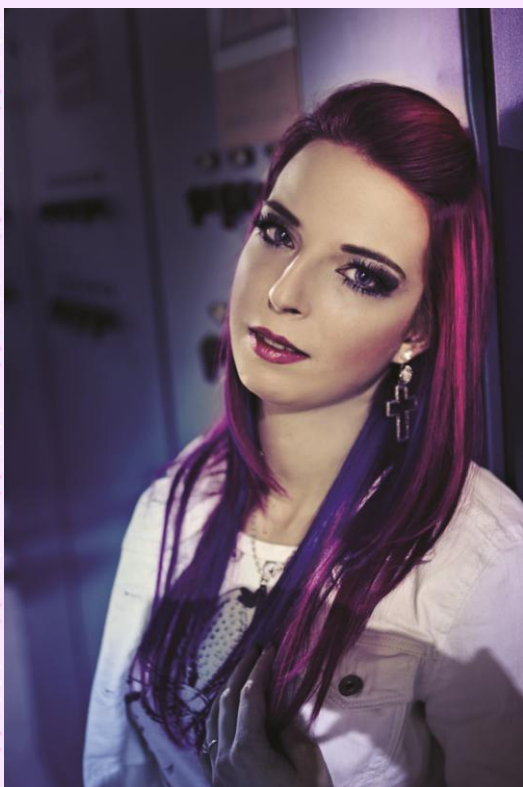
Album „Digital Cube“ has a very unexpected, original and lovely design. I've never seen a metal band's album with purple design, NEVER. But it look so good! The album starts with intro „Connected“ and finishing with sounds of song „Disconnected“.It just taking you to another, digital world of nowadays generations. Album has 2 versions of song „Mockingjay“ (a song dedicated to the books & movies 'Tributes of Panem'), 2 versions of song „Fairytale“- both sounds very different and very unusual. What I love a lot about this album that each song has own soul, own life and own mood which they broadcasting. Absolutelly all songs has a very soft chorus which just leaving in the head and don't want to go out. This album's lyrics has and little sense of humor of XXI century zombies in alive people bodies. For example in song „Digital cube“ lyrics are „A new application as a digital wife will give you a soft kiss goodnight“, how much I love that :D

To sum up- Alia Tempora released really cool album and without any doubts I give 10/10. It was released in 2015, so I can say that from that year my favourite albums are this one and Kamelot „Haven“. Really recommend to listen to it, support this band and buy this album, because it just must be in every heavy music's lover CDs library. ♥

Read interview with Alia Tempora vocalist Marketa below!



Marketa from Alia Tempora: „I wanna write lyrics in which everyone can find themselves“



Hey, Marketa. How are you?

Hi Vita, I am great, thank you! ☺ How about you?

You just released your cd „Digital Cube“. What are your feelings about that album?

Well, we naturally love the Digital Cube like our own child, just like every other band does their first album! ☺ It was our big dream to release the CD like this one and it worked better than we ever expected – our crowdfunding campaign absolutely overcome our expectations, the possibility to have the booklet from amazing Gustavo Sazes who worked with the biggest bands, and to have the guest on the album like genius Timo Somers from our iconic Delain, it is something very very huge for us.

However, we still see a lot of things on the album we could do much much better, a lot of mistakes to correct, but we are sure it's usual and it's the right thing. ☺

Did you have any challenges while recording this album?

Honestly, the whole album was the big challenge for us, maybe precisely because it was our debut and because there were a lot of people who expected the best from us. The crowdfunding campaign was the big challenge and it was also very stressful, because we knew we can't make it without all the help from our fans. But for me, the biggest challenge was really in the studio, and it was with the song Now and Then (Bitrate).

The song was only a few days old, and I finished lyrics the night before our last day in studio...:D But the song just touched us so hard, that we couldn't wait for another album to record it. So... I said, let's try it, no big deal :D And I just stepped in front of the microphone and started to sing with all the emotion I felt from this song. It was the last song of the day, it was almost night and I needed to have turned the lights off to focus perfectly :D Guys had fun of me a lot :D It was also almost the last song to record in the whole album and...Well...After the recording, guys told me: „Markéta, you just learned how to sing, let's record all vocals on the album again from the start!“ :D And so we did it... :D





Who are your musical and non-musical influences?

For me it's Avril Lavigne, Elize Ryd, Charlotte Wessels and Ariel from Icon for Hire.

Who writes the songs, what meaning they hiding in between the lyrics lines?

I do. ☺ I am trying to write lyrics with some deeper meaning because I think the music is here to teach us and to let us „wash away“ our emotions. I

wanna write lyrics in which everyone can find themselves and their hidden emotions to display them like the mirror, to clear the mind. Every song in the album has it's own story and I would probably spend hours to describe all of them, but the whole concept is about the traps of the virtual world where we live at this time.

Describe your show, visual and musically

Hh, well :D Everything is different with my new led lighting mic stand... :D No, really :D On our show we are usually very wild, full of energy and happy to play our music to our fans. And it reflects to the show and to the fans, but it's like the two-directional wave of energy. If one end of the line doesn't work, if the chemistry doesn't work, it's really hard to keep the energy up for 100%.

Your music's videos are really awesome! Where you catching ideas for them?

Thank you a lot! ☺ The first videoclip Leave You Behind was my concept and it just reflected the lyrics and the story of that song – I had the story in my head when I wrote the lyrics and the videoclip concept came at the same time.

With the second one, Mockingjay, it also wasn't hard at all, because we had the concept made by the Hunger Games movie. So the band and the directors just followed the story, the lyrics and we just tried to make it more abstract and more „Alia Tempora“.

How does music affect you and the world around you?

A lot... For me the music is something I really can't live without. It connects people, changes the mood, good lyrics and music can change the whole worldview... It literally changes the world...



Why did you pick your band name?

We wanted to have the Latin name to be cool enough... :D When we realized it's not so cool, it was too late... :D Alia Tempora means „Another Times“. It represents our desire for timelessness, volatility and genre unlimitedness.



Which song from „Digital Cube“ is your favorite?

It's Now and Then for sure, then the Disconnected, FairyTale and OMG,Timo's Mockingjay Remix! 😊

What is the best advice which you've ever received?

Well, I would really love to use the lyrics from my favorite band Little Mix as the answer :D (yes, I really do listen to this teenage pop band... :D) This song is called Wings and I have it with my mom as „our song“ :D

And it is: „Mamma told me not to waste my life, she said spread your wings my little butterfly. Don't let

what they say keep you up at night, an they can't detain you, cause wings are made to fly.“ ;)

Why „Digital Cube“? Why did you chosen this title?

The whole album is about the virtualisation, digitalization of the world. It's about how we are blindly giving everything to the virtual nation and even when something inside us is shouting to get out from this frightening , suffocating „cube“, we are still trapped there and we can't move. One day I realized that I am internet addicted. No kidding.

That day I stared at my monitor, facebook, as every day, with nothing to do, I just stared because I couldn't stop. Then I looked outside the window where the rain was falling. I got up, opened the window and sniffed the scent of the rain. Sound really pathetic, I know...But I was so angry at me that I am wasting TOO MUCH time just sitting in front of the screen EVERY DAY for HOURS. I felt the insane desire to get out and I really really felt like I am desperately trapped in the digital cube. All

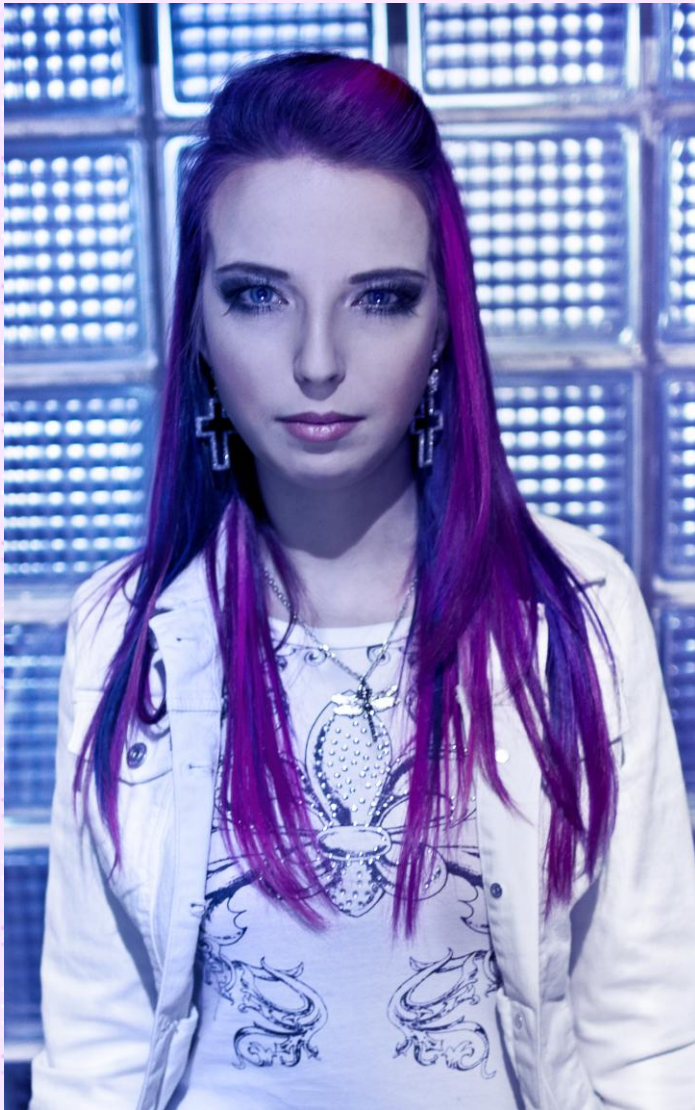
this I realized in single second and I desperately wanted others to realize that too and I was willing to do anything to convey this to people who might have the same problem. And guys liked that idea a lot and decided to support me. 😊



What's your favorite part about the songs writing process?

Finishing it... :D Like, really :D

Every time I write some lyrics, it's very uncomfortable and painfull for me, because I have some little, unclear but of course very important idea in my mind and it really hurts to bring it to life as the perfect entity :D It's like the birth, really. And when it's done and I „get it out of me“ (:D) I feel very liberated and I love the „baby“ I created painfully 😊



If I was to turn your MP3 player right now, what five artists/songs would I see in your recently played list.

Well, I just set my playlist to random play and it is: Delain, Avril Lavigne, Amaranthe, Within Temptation and Alia Tempora... :D

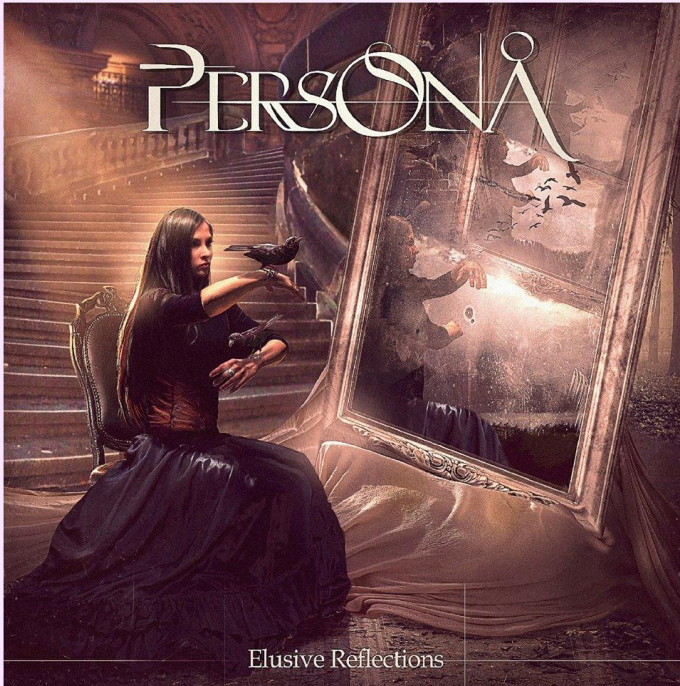

Any funny situations during the concerts or recording sessions which you would like to share with us?

When we played at Female Voices Fest in Germany, we were stopped by the German „Cobra 11“. That was because we had three long-haired black-dressed boys in our car and the police needed to check that we don't transport any drugs to the metal concert... :D We almost arrived late at our soundcheck so my dreams about „using my hair iron and make up when we arrive“ melted like a cheese...:D

Any plans for the concerts in Europe? For example I am from Lithuania and I really would love to hear your songs live!

It's very nice of you! We have some plans in Europe, yes, but unfortunately not this year. But we are thinking about the tour in neighboring countries - Germany, Poland, Austria, Slovakia. Let's hope it will work.

The last question. Is there anything you would like to tell for „The Lyrical Spell“ magazine readers? Keep supporting bands, guys, no matter if it is the female fronted or not, because without you we all could pack our things and get out of the stage. You are the fuel of the music... 😊

Thomas Birthday Project

*Film a very short video where you saying "Happy birthday, Thomas" in your native language.

*Write a message to Kamelot Lithuania page or Vita Kolosovaitė profile to get info for a photo which you'll have to take.

DEADLINE IS 1st of the May

Thomas' birthday is coming and we must to make that day as special as we can!

Send your videos here:
kamelot.lithuania@gmail.com