



ALLEGAEON
APOPTOSIS
METAL BLADE

With ***Apoptosis***, **Allegaeon** deliver their defining statement. A near-perfect symbiosis of technical, progressive, and melodic death metal, it’s a record that’s as crushingly heavy as it is inventive, lithe and intelligent, and marks a significant leap forward in their songwriting. “On this record, I was more open to new ideas that we might not have used in past,” states guitarist Michael Stancel. “With that mentality came some of my favorite songs, because I was less worried about if it fit into our old sound.” This statement is borne out across ***Apoptosis***, which while very much embodying the core **Allegaeon** sound that has drawn fans in over the course of their impressive career, it pushes into new territory, and does so with unerring confidence.



AMON AMARTH
BERSERKER
METAL BLADE

Comprising twelve monstrous anthems that bulge with irresistible melodic hooks, bursts of thrilling savagery and moments of spine-tingling dynamic drama, **Amon Amarth's** aptly-titled eleventh studio album, ***Berserker*** is the result of a huge surge of creativity for Sweden’s celebrated Viking overlords and undisputed modern masters of epic heavy metal, and a collective desire to keep moving forward with no compromise. From the disarming melodrama and explosive riffing of opener “Fafner’s Gold” and the brutish simplicity of the rampaging “Crack The Sky” to the epic fury of “Raven’s Flight” and the grim, gritty storytelling of “Ironside” and “Skoll and Hati,” ***Berserker*** is an album full of trademark **Amon Amarth** bluster and bite, but with every aspect of the band’s sound somehow refined yet vastly more potent.



DIESEAR
BLOODRED INFERNO
EONE

Diesear has been a pioneering trailblazer in Taiwan for over a decade. Taiwan’s answer to At The Gates, Dark Tranquility, and In Flames, **Diesear** has been mining the new wave of Swedish Death Metal in a fresh way, with fiercely progressive elements, unapologetically thick atmosphere, and blackened fury. On ***BloodRed Inferno***, the band’s third full-length album, and the first to get a truly international release, **Diesear** cement themselves as East Asia’s most vital and altogether thrilling melodic death metal outfit. A conceptually driven record drawn from the themes and revelations of the first part of Dante’s 14th century epic poem, “The Divine Comedy,” ***BloodRed Inferno*** tells an allegorical tale of human sin, against a backdrop of technical heaviness.



NINE SHRINES
RETRIBUTION THERAPY
MASCOT LABEL GROUP

Cleveland quintet **Nine Shrines** arose in 2014 from the ashes of an aggressive 00’s Ohio band pedigree: drummer Andrew Wetzel (Attack Attack!), bassist Devon Voisine and lead guitarist Andrew Baylis, (Life on Repeat), rhythm guitarist Even McKeever (Downplay), and singer Chris Parketny (Strangers to Wolves). Their new album, ***Retribution Therapy***, sees the band truly gel as one powerful unit, blending the most extreme elements of active-rock/metal-core with well-crafted, melodic songwriting. Sharing the stage with Volbeat, Halestorm, Chimaira, Shinedown, All That Remains, and Nonpoint made waves nationwide. It’s all given rise to the intensity of ***Retribution Therapy*** produced by Dan Korneff (My Chemical Romance, I Prevail, Pierce The Veil).



JORDAN RUDESS
WIRED FOR MADNESS
MASCOT LABEL GROUP

Dream Theater keyboardist **Jordan Rudess** returns with his latest solo endeavor, ***Wired For Madness***. Bursting with all of the drama, technique, and melodicism that have become his musical hallmarks, the album is a vibrant and pulsating *tour de force* that blends old-school prog and piano with a ferocious and ambitious oeuvre that’s as tasteful and classic as it is outrageously expansive. “There’s even some blues on the record,” says **Rudess** without a trace of irony: “The Dream Theater guys call me ‘Blues Man’ because in many ways I am a reincarnation of an old blues man soul. I called in Joe Bonamassa and a full brass section to enrich the title track, ‘Wired For Madness.’” Guests abound, including Dream Theater frontman James LaBrie.



LORD DYING
MYSTERIUM TREMENDUM
METAL ENTERTAINMENT ONE

“We set out to write a record about life, and it ended up being about death,” says **Lord Dying** guitarist/vocalist Erik Olson regarding the band’s third studio album ***Mysterium Tremendum***. While the new record centers around death (and you bet your ass it’s a double-LP concept album), it focuses more on what awaits us on the other side (while also exploring our culture’s fear of dying, and the struggles with our own mortality). ***Mysterium Tremendum*** is the record Olson and guitarist Chris Evans have wanted to make since the band’s inception. It’s easily **Lord Dying’s** most musically diverse album, but one that could only be made following the band’s jackhammer 2013 debut *Summon the Faithless*, and 2015’s brooding *Poisoned Altars*.



TOBY KNAPP
BLIZZARD ARCHER
MORIBUND ROCKERS! / MORIBUND RECORDS

Originally signing with world-renowned guitar god label Shrapnel Records in 1992 at the unheard of age of 19, **Toby Knapp** has never looked back and continues to have a productive and prolific career in rock and heavy metal! Recording albums with 20+ of his own bands including Onward, Toby Knapp, Waxen, Where Evil Follows, Necrytis, Affliktor & Darken, a full time guitar teacher & session studio and live musician for many world class national artists including Attila Csihar (Mayhem), Godless Rising, Fetid Zombie, Abhor & more, **Knapp** has kept very busy schedule over the decades. With his 7th full-length album, ***Blizzard Archer***, **Knapp** redefines solo-guitar wizardry and instrumental rock & roll, reviving and invigorating the genre for the 21st century!