

the ETERNAL



Mark Kelson - Guitar & Vocals
Terry Vainoras - Guitar
Dave Langlands - Bass Guitar
Marty O'Shea - Drums

The Eternal
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Biography | 2009

The Eternal formed in Melbourne, Australia in mid-2003. Later that year, they signed a two-album deal with Firebox Records of Finland on the strength of a self-titled promotional EP. Their debut album for Firebox 'The Sombre Light of Isolation' was released worldwide in June 2004, and received glowing reviews in both mainstream and underground media around the globe. Darren White (ex-Anathema/The Blood Divine) also contributed guest vocals on the track 'Remembrance Scars'.

'The Sombre Light of Isolation' was voted 5th best Australian release of 2005 by listeners to Australian national radio Triple J's Full Metal Racket, and nominated as 2nd best Australian album of 2005 by the show's presenter. The band was also named in Kerrang! magazine's '50 Bands You Need To Know Right Now'. The Eternal completed two videos for the album, the classic 'Down' and beautiful 'Crimson Sacrifice'. In support of this album, The Eternal toured Australia, Hong Kong, continental Europe, UK and Finland in late 2004, and upon return immediately set about writing material for their second album 'Sleep of Reason'.

Recorded early in 2005, 'Sleep of Reason' extends The Eternal's sound from their debut work. Songs vary in feel from the emotive melodic rock of 'Everlasting' and 'A Dream's End' to the stifling drag of 'Beneath the Soil' and 'Weight of Empathy'. 'Sleep Of Reason' clearly demonstrated the whole band's ability to make strong musical statements filled with both emotion and atmosphere. It was produced and recorded by Endel Rivers at Palm Studios in Melbourne, and mastered by Mika Jussila (Amorphis, Nightwish, Therion) at Finnvox Studios in Helsinki. The album's decidedly Stygian sleeve-art was created by Travis Smith (Opeth, Katatonia, Anathema) based on the etching 'El sueño de la razon produce monstruos' by Francisco de Goya. Videos for 'Everlasting', 'A Soul Undone' and 'Hollow Inside' followed the release of the album.

2006 saw the The Eternal landing the Australian national support slot for Finnish rockers HIM, which coincided with the Australian release of 'Sleep of Reason'. These successful shows were shortly followed by six shows supporting Swedish death/prog masters Opeth on their 'Ghost Reveries' Australian tour. The Eternal delivered performances which won them many new fans and much recognition in their home country. 2006 also saw guitarist/vocalist Mark Kelson receiving endorsements from ESP guitars and Dean Markley strings.

After touring Australia extensively for the release of 'Sleep of Reason' and playing to well over 15,000 people in their home country, the band set off for their second tour of Europe in May 2007. The tour saw the band return to Portugal, Germany, Hungary, Belgium and the Netherlands to the warm welcome of fans old and new. On their return home, the band went about completing and compiling three years worth of demo material for what would soon become 'Kartika'.

The Eternal's latest album 'Kartika,' may be seen as the bands most diverse and ambitious album to date. With lush vocal harmonies and carefully detailed arrangements, 'Kartika' takes the listener through varied soundscapes, from the emotive 'Brighter Day' and 'Walk Beside You' to the eastern influenced epic 'Blood'. Catchy, melodic, dark and beautiful, The Eternal have not sat safely behind the sound created on their previous albums, and in turn have managed to push forward and break new ground. Guests on the album include Duncan Patterson (ex-Anathema, Antimatter and Ion) on Mandolin, Nicholas Albanis (Dandelion Wine) on Hammered Dulcimer and the amazing voice of Russian songstress Emily A. Saaen to name a few.

'Kartika' was produced between December 2007 and May 2008, recorded at several studios in Australia including Mixmasters Studios, Adelaide and Palm Studios in Melbourne. It was mixed in Tallinn, Estonia by Endel Rivers at Palm Studios II and mastered at the renowned Crystal Mastering, Melbourne, Australia by John Ruberto. 'Kartika' saw its European release in November 2008, once again through Finnish label Firebox Records & was released by Amphetamine in Australia to rave reviews.

The Eternal began an extensive world tour in February 2009. The tour will take the band through Australia, Japan, Europe, America, Canada & Mexico before they head home to commence pre-production on their yet to be titled fourth album.

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- 01 *Silence* (6.04)
- 02 *Without Reason* (4.47)
- 03 *Lost Our Way* (4.33)
- 04 *Self Inflicted* (3.59)
- 05 *Blood* (9.37)
- 06 *A Pale Reflection* (5.03)
- 07 *Sunshine* (4.02)
- 08 *Illuminate* (4.11)
- 09 *Walk Beside You* (4.55)
- 10 *Kartika* (2.30)
- 11 *Means For An Ending* (4.20)
- 12 *Brighter Day* (7.07)

Bonus Disc:

- 01 *Frozen Sun* (6.16) | 02 *July* (6.09) | 03 *Inside The Grey* (4.29)
04 *Last Embrace* (5.02) | 05 *Self Inflicted (Remix)* (3.19)
06 *Blood (Draconian Drone / Dark Insight Demix)* (9.09)

the ETERNAL | *kartika*

The Eternal are:

Mark Kelson : Guitar, Vocals | Terry Vainoras : Guitar
Chris Stevenson : Keyboards | Dave Langlands : Bass Guitar
Marty O'Shea : Drums

Additional Musicians:

Emily A. Saaen - Additional vocals on 'Blood', 'Walk Beside You' & 'Kartika'
Duncan Patterson - Mandolin on 'Kartika'
Nicholas Albanis - Hammered Dulcimer on 'Kartika'
Lincoln Bowen - Guitar solo on 'Without Reason' & additional guitar on 'Lost Our Way' 'Illuminate' & 'Walk Beside You'
Luke Fazakerley - Eastern drum on 'Blood'
Mark Kelson - Backing Vocals, Pipa & Mellotron

Produced by Endel Rivers & Mark Kelson
Engineered by Endel Rivers, Ian Miller & Mark Kelson
Mixed by Endel Rivers

Drums recorded @ Mixmaster Studios, Adelaide, South Australia
December 2007. Engineered by Ian Miller
Guitars recorded @ Jam Hut Studios & Dragons Den, Melbourne, Australia
December 2007 - January 2008. Engineered by Ian Miller
Bass, Vocals & Acoustic Guitar recorded @ Palm Studios, Melbourne, Australia
January 2008. Engineered by Endel Rivers
Mixed by Endel Rivers @ Palm Studios II, Tallinn, Estonia. April - May 2008
Mastered by John Ruberto @ Crystal Mastering, Melbourne, Australia. August 2008

Artwork by Diego Maniscalco | upspire.com
Layout, logo & additional design by Mark Kelson
Photography by Goran Dojcinovic

All music & lyrics by M.Kelson except 'A Pale Reflection'
& 'Means For An Ending'; lyrics: C.Stevenson & M.Kelson

The Eternal use ESP Guitars & Dean Markley Stings exclusively.



'Ultimately, what makes this album what it is, is the song writing
Each song has something memorable which makes listening to
'Kartika' instantly enjoyable the first time you hear it'

9.5/10 Metal Obsession (Australia)

'If you're looking for a diverse rock/metal band with
a dark edge to it and just damn good song writing
skills, make sure you check these guys out.'

8/10 Metal Rage (Netherlands)

'Without worrying about genres or styles,
The Eternal has made a timeless album'

88/100 Lords Of Metal (Netherlands)

'The honesty is of a high level. So, temper the lights
at night, take a glass of wine, put on this CD,
and I assure you, you'll have a great time.'

8/10 Fury Rock (Netherlands)

'The Eternal immediately gets all my attention'

87/100 Metal Belgium (Belgium)

'It's taken The Eternal a long time to finally getting
'Kartika', but the wait has definitely not been without
its rewards. As long as you're prepared to expect the
unexpected, it's hard to imagine any fan of The Eternal's
past work being disappointed with 'Kartika'.

8.5/100 Blistering (USA)

'Those who are into this genre will surely find it a
great addition for their collection, but 'Kartika'
surely has potential to rise above it'

Tempelores (Netherlands)

'You don't very often get perfection in music, but this could
well be it. Leavened with a faintly Eastern influence, this is
just superb. Darkness is indeed a beautiful thing.'

Live 4 Metal (UK)

'Sometimes an album needs a few plays, but sometimes
one is spellbound by a new album from the first second!
The Eternal have done it.'

9/10 Stalker (Germany)

'The third album from this Australian band is a large
step forward which provides an hour splendid music.'

87/100 Zware Metal (Germany)

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2005 - Sleep of Reason (Firebox Records)

01. Awaken, Arise / 02. Everlasting / 03. To Drown / 04. A Soul Undone
05. Hollow Inside / 06. In My Skin / 07. A Dream's End
08. Beneath The Soil / 09. Sleep of Reason / 10. The Dying Light
11. Weight of Empathy

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'The Eternal have recorded one of the best gothic doom metal albums I have ever heard. The music is so rich and varied that they certainly will find an audience. Let's hope for them that they will get the deserved recognition.'
9/10 Disagreement, Luxembourg

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'This second album from Melbourne dark melodic metal act *The Eternal* is a world class effort, with excellent production, artwork and most importantly musical content. Local acts take note - this is how you go about setting yourself apart from the pack.'
CD of the week, Inpress, Australia

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'The Eternal are one of the top metal bands in Australia at the moment and it's easy to see why. *Sleep Of Reason* (their second album) should appeal to most metal fans. It also has the potential to gain popularity in the mainstream.'

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'This is largely due to the track *Everlasting*. Whether they admit it or not every band hopes to record a song like this. *Everlasting* stays glued in your mind and is something you will always want to listen to. As much as music is subjective I would be lost for words if someone said they didn't like this song.'
8/10 Sinister Online, Australia

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'In conclusion, one can affirm that this second album of *The Eternal* is a true success confirming the hopes generated following their first album. I would even say that it goes beyond making progress this young group towards the sphere of the great metal groups.'
8.5/10 Pavillon666, France

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'One of the things I've enjoyed is the great balance achieved between every element of the music. Everything is on its place, the sound is crystalline and clean, friendly and elegant, and arrangements are very worked on.'
Tartarean Desire, Sweden

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'...the majority of the songs here feature some manner of catchy chorus, usually lofted into the stratosphere by Mark Kelson's excellent voice.'
Metal Review, U.S.A

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'There's no shortage of talent here, fine musicianship all around, and Mark Kelson's vocals give the band an added respectability, they sound well-rounded and heartfelt'
Alternative Magazine, Israel

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'The Eternal have not only managed to succeed in avoid the dreaded sophomore curse, but also diversified their sound beyond the strict doom confines to incorporate stronger melodic structures, along with elements of gothic rock and its associated atmospherics.'
The Metal Forge, Australia

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'I enjoyed listening to it. It has a somewhat soothing effect. It's like a movie without a picture leaving you to envision what you like. All the songs on this CD run and blend together perfectly, sit back, relax and enjoy the moment.'
7/10 Nocturnal Hall, Germany



2004 - The Sombre Light of Isolation (Firebox Records)

01. Commemorate the Misery / 02. A Cruel Misfortune
03. The Eternal / 04. Down / 05. The Sombre Light of Isolation
06. Black Serenity / 07. Crimson Sacrifice / 08. Harmony of Dissonance
09. Remembrance Scars / 10. All Hope Lost

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'Overwhelmed probably best describes how I felt after the first listen to this album, the first for Melbourne's *The Eternal*. There's no justifiable reason why *The Eternal* shouldn't be elevated to worldwide acclaim with this album, because it's a masterpiece.'
5/5 Loud! webzine, Australia.

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'The Eternal are one of the greatest talents in the Australian and international metal scene. Do yourself a favour and check out what these 5 guys from Melbourne have to offer. Simply breathtaking!'
5/5 Highly Recommended! Full-Strength Webzine, Australia

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'I simply cannot find enough words for the Australian quintet's offerings, that's why it would be best if you get the album, turn the lights down and push play... And don't forget to pay very, very special attention to every single track, but especially to pearls like *Down*, *Black Serenity*, *Remembrance Scars*'
4.5/5 Walls of Fire Webzine, Germany

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'As with the godlike *Swallow the Sun*, those sensible people at *Firebox* have uncovered another fine new band with a commendable grasp of the necessary dynamics and bursts of mid-tempo aggression that exemplify doom metal at its emotive best.'
4/5 Kerrang! Australia/UK

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'Many torturing melodies, nice solid rhythm section, catchy tunes and a lot of guitar melodies. What else would you ask from a band? Thumps up.'
8/10 Metal Germany

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'If you like Doom in its more melodic and Gothic oriented form, you should listen this album.'
7/10 Xtream Music, Spain

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'Pick up this album ASAP and get completely immersed in *The Sombre Light of Isolation*.'
Metal Gospel

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'Considering that this is their debut the future looks really bright for the band. *The Eternal* impresses with their album *The Sombre Light of Isolation* and I can really recommend this album.'
Metal Only Webzine, Sweden

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'Most fans will dig the fact that vocalist Mark Kelson doesn't just throw up his vocal cords when singing, he actually sings. Amen, brother.'
Decoy Music, USA

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'This album needs some time to fully express itself but if you have a liking for melodic doom metal with an occasional gothic moment this is worth checking out.'
8/10 Rock E-Zine, Netherlands

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'Worth checking out, because you won't get this chance very often!'
9/10 Lords of Metal, Netherlands