

Headline: Martijn Westerholt's EYE OF MELIAN Signs with Napalm Records & Announces New Album, "Forest Of Forgetting" for February 20!

Subheadline: First Single, "Blackthorn Winter" & Video Revealed!



Martijn Westerholt's EYE OF MELIAN Signs with Napalm Records!

Magical New Album, *Forest Of Forgetting*, Drops February 20, 2026 | Pre-Order [HERE!](#)

First Single, "Blackthorn Winter", Unveiled | Watch the Official Music Video [HERE!](#)



[Photo Credit: Tim Tronckoe]

Napalm Records is proud to announce the signing of **EYE OF MELIAN** – the Tolkien-inspired symphonic project founded by Martijn Westerholt (Delain) and Finnish vocalist Johanna Kurkela (Auri). Alongside this exciting partnership, the band unveils their new album, ***Forest Of Forgetting***, set for release on February 20, 2026.

Named after a powerful primordial singing spirit from the world of J.R.R. Tolkien, **EYE OF MELIAN** draws deeply from his mythic lore and incorporates it into their breathtaking musical universe. ***Forest Of Forgetting*** presents a spellbinding masterclass in symphonic storytelling, so immersive and dreamlike that reality gently drifts away. As a first glimpse into this enchanted world, the band releases the single “*Blackthorn Winter*”. Ethereal and cinematic, the track captures **EYE OF MELIAN**’s signature movie score-like sound: lush orchestration, elegant melodies, and an otherworldly atmosphere that invites listeners to step beyond the veil and into realms of pure imagination.

Johanna Kurkela about “Blackthorn Winter”:

“*Blackthorn Winter*’ ended up becoming a very personal song to me after writing the lyrics about living here in Finland, where winter feels like it never ends and summer is the best day of the year.”

Watch the Official Video for “Blackthorn Winter” [HERE!](#)

Thumbnail

With this opulent album, **EYE OF MELIAN** extends an invitation to faraway lands full of wonder. ***Forest Of Forgetting*** unfolds as quite the opposite of its title: utterly unforgettable.

Martijn Westerholt about *Forest Of Forgetting*:

“This album has been a really inspiring process – both for me as a songwriter and in what each of us brought to it. It has a lot of what **EYE OF MELIAN** is known for: cinematic, score-like arrangements, minor chords, and those epic, mysterious atmospheres. The lyrics tie everything together; they bring out the worlds and stories that the music hints at and make the whole thing feel complete. The collaboration between us on this record felt very natural. We’ve really found our way of working as a team, and I’m proud of what we created together.”

Order Your Copy of *Forest Of Forgetting* [NOW!](#)



Completing the all-star lineup on their debut with Napalm Records are orchestral arranger Mikko P. Mustonen and backing vocalist and lyricist Robin La Joy, blessing twelve lush compositions with immortal life. Mesmerizing from the first gentle notes of opening track *"Of Willows And Shadows"*, **Forest Of Forgetting** weaves otherworldly piano melodies and epic strings around angelic vocals worthy of the powerful Valar themselves. *"Child Of Twilight"* deepens **EYE OF MELIAN**'s dreamy and bombastic Hollywood movie score approach, carefully building up an exceptionally enchanting atmosphere that carries on into the equally cinematic *"Blackthorn Winter"*, ever so elegantly broadening the view into the alluring realms the band is melodizing. *"Dawn Of Avatars"* features Nightwish multi-instrumentalist Troy Donockley on flute and uilleann pipes, as well as hurdy-gurdy fairy Patty Gurdy, before **EYE OF MELIAN** turns in the direction of heavy metal with a charming rendition of Bruce Dickinson's anthem *"Tears Of The Dragon"* (originally released on **Balls To Picasso** in 1994 after the singer had left Iron Maiden). **Forest Of Forgetting** also comes with all its tracks as instrumental versions to dwell in the impressive orchestrals alone.

Forest Of Forgetting tracklisting:

1. Of Willows and Shadows

2. Symphonia Arcana
3. Child of Twilight
4. Elixir of Night (feat. Patty Gurdy and Troy Donockley)
5. Blackthorn Winter
6. Lady of Light
7. Dawn of Avatars (feat. Patty Gurdy and Troy Donockley)
8. Forest of Forgetting
9. The Buried Well
10. The Mirror
11. Nepenthe
12. Tears of the Dragon (Bruce Dickinson Cover)

Forest Of Forgetting will be available in the following formats:

2-LP Gatefold Vinyl MARBLED TRANSLUCENT REPTILE, incl. 24" Booklet – *strictly limited to 150 copies worldwide (Napalm Mailorder exclusive)*

2-LP Gatefold Vinyl MARBLED CRISTALLO GOLD – *strictly limited to 150 copies worldwide (Napalm Mailorder exclusive)*

2-LP Gatefold Vinyl BLACK

2-CD Digipak

Digital Album

Mock-up

[2-LP Gatefold Vinyl MARBLED TRANSLUCENT REPTILE, incl. 24" Booklet – *strictly limited to 150 copies worldwide (Napalm Mailorder exclusive)*]

EYE OF MELIAN are:

Martijn Westerholt – Keys and Orchestra arrangements

Johanna Kurkela – Vocals and Violin

Robin La Joy – Backing Voals

Mikko P Mustonen – Keys and Orchestra arrangements

EYE OF MELIAN online:

[INSTAGRAM](#)

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