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CHAPTER 19 THE NEW POWER FILES

Welcome to Chapter 19 of The New Power Files, featuring a bumper 151 of the best new rock and metal songs – free for you to download.

To grab the mp3 files, band info, and Nicky's 'The Music Is Out There' PDF interviews, go to www.powerplaymagazine.co.uk. Click on the Power Files tab and then the link to download the zip file for The New Power Files Chapter 19. Enter the pass code when prompted. As there are so many songs this time we have also included separate links for each group. It should be straightforward but if you have any problems with downloading the files, give us a call on 0161 3391035. Enjoy the music!

Here's the exclusive code for Powerplay readers: MOR22 (the pass code is case-sensitive and the link will expire at the end of January 2023).

Group 1: Classic, Rock, Blues Rock, Indie and Americana

18. The Velvet SuperSloths 'Higher Fire'

36. The Last Moment 'Carnival'

54. B.E.E.R. 'Sick Prayer'

1. Keith Thompson 'Easy Money'
From the album: 'Smoke And Mirrors'
www.densitymusic.com

From the album: 'The Velvet SuperSloths'
www.thevelvetsupersloths.com

From the EP: 'A New Beginning'
<https://www.facebook.com/TheLastMomentofficial>

From the album: 'Blinded By Evil'
<https://www.facebook.com/B.E.E.R.Thrash>

2. Derek Davis 'What Is Up Is Down'
From the single: 'What Is Up Is Down'
<https://derekdavismusic.com>

19. Sabertooth 'Catnip'
From the album: 'Sabertooth'
www.facebook.com/Sabertoothpnw

37. S.R. Heller 'The Eyes Of Destiny'
From the album: 'The Hollow Symphonic'
www.srhmusic.com

55. Dawn of a Dark Age 'Le Forche Caudine (Pt.1)'
From the album: 'Le Forche Caudine 321 a.C. – 2021 d.C.'
<https://dawnofadarkage.bandcamp.com>

3. Linda Ronald 'Will O' The Wisp'
From the album: 'The Heights'
<https://facebook.com/lindaronaldmusic>

20. Laufgast 'Mortality Is Solace'
From the album: 'Roots for Spears'
<https://www.facebook.com/Laufgast>

38. Midnight Street Of Rage 'Crazy Saloon...'
From the album: 'Modern Desert'
<http://www.midnightstreetofrage.com>

56. Wisdom & Fools 'No Way Out'
From the album: 'What Lies Beneath'
<https://www.facebook.com/wisdomandfools>

4. Timothy J 'Better Late'
From the album: 'Better Late'
<https://www.timothyj.ca>

21. Hadron 'Evil Lady'
From the album: 'Evil Lady'
<https://www.hadron.dk>

39. Basement's Glare 'Monster-Faced Angel'
From the album: 'Circus Of The Fallen'
<https://basementsglare.com>

57. Prophets Tomb 'Pack-a-Punch'
From the album: 'The Third Wave'
<https://www.facebook.com/ProphetsTombBand>

5. Crossroads 'Fire In The Valley'
From the album: 'Fire In The Valley'
<https://www.facebook.com/CrossroadsMaine>

22. Castellica 'Moment Of Glory'
From the album: 'Moment Of Glory'
www.castellica.com

40. Final Gravity 'No Love'
From the album: 'Surviving Humanity'
<http://www.finalgravitytheband.com>

58. Angel Rising 'Pull The Trigger'
From the album: 'Immortal Volition'
https://www.facebook.com/angelrisingofficial/?modal=admin_todo_tour

6. Only Sound 'Peaches'
From the album: 'The Only Sound'
<https://www.facebook.com/onlysoundband>

23. Perpetual Escape 'Fire For Eternity'
From the album: 'Fire For Eternity'
<http://www.perpetual-escape.com>

41. Fading Chaos 'No Future'
From the album: 'Quietus'
<https://www.facebook.com/fadingchaos>

59. Lesson In Violence 'Thrash Metal Mankind'
From the album: 'The Thrashfall Of Mankind'
www.lessoninviolence.com

7. Mojo Parker 'Let It Ride'
From the album: 'The Mojo Parker Express'
<https://mojoparker.com>

24. Myrkvedr 'Gräben'
From the album: 'Gengångare'
<https://www.facebook.com/Myrkvedr>

42. Aran Prog Project 'Origin'
From the album: 'EVO 'A Progressive Journey'
<https://aranprog.com>

60. Hangman's Park 'Strife'
From the album: 'Eleven'
<https://www.facebook.com/hangmanspark>

8. Peace Machine 'Shadows Collide'
From the album: 'Golden Velvet'
<http://www.peacemachine.at>

25. Hellsike 'The Devil In Disguise'
From the album: 'Insanitarium'
<https://hellsike.bandcamp.com>

43. Epic Tantrum 'Letting Go'
From the album: 'Abandoned In The Stranger's Room'
<http://www.epictantrum.com>

Group 4: Hard Rock, Melodic Hard Rock and AOR

9. Marshmellow Overcoat 'Ghost In The Doorway'
From the album: 'Ghost In The Doorway'
<https://marshmellowovercoat.com/>

26. Isatha 'Pan'
From the album: 'From Here To Beyond'
www.facebook.com/isatha

Group 3: Thrash, Death Metal, Metcore and Black Metal

44. Indign 'Exile'

From the album: 'Retribution'
<http://www.indignmusic.com>

61. The Spiderhawks 'She's Waiting'

From the album: 'Travelling Light'
www.thespiderhawks.com

10. Erewan 'Childhoods'
From the album: 'How Will All This End?'
<https://www.facebook.com/Erewanproject>

27. Skjoldr 'Signals'
From the album: 'Celestial'
<https://www.facebook.com/skjoldrband>

45. Oscar Rangel's Avantgarde 'As Death'
From the album: 'Ghost Of Time'
<https://www.avantgardemusic.ca>

63. 27 Dead 'Butterfly'
From the album: 'Living In Sin'
<https://www.facebook.com/20sevendead>

11. 70's Sons 'Night Train'
From the album: 'South And Mabry'
www.soundtopia.co.uk

28. Zenitzsche 'Fantasy'
From the album: 'Ghost Of The Past'
<https://www.facebook.com/Zenitzsche>

46. Breksir 'At The Gates Of Hell'
From the EP: 'At The Gates'
<https://www.facebook.com/BreksirOfficial>

64. Hootenanny Freaks 'Eyes Of The Warrior'
From the album: 'Eyes Of The Warrior'
<https://www.facebook.com/HootenannyFreaks>

12. Branford Hwy 'Boots On The Ground'
From the EP: 'Branford Hwy'
https://m.facebook.com/BranfordHwy/?__tn__=C

29. Bengal 'Hypergalactic'
From the album: 'From Outer Space'
www.facebook.com/bengaltheband

47. Exorcizphobia 'Digitotality'
From the album: 'Digitotality'
www.exorcizphobia.bandcamp.com

65. Five O Seven 'Higher Ground'
From the album: 'Turn On The Night'
<https://www.facebook.com/five0sevenband>

13. Haikel Ouzahrir 'What I Wanna Do'
From the album: 'What I Wanna Do'
<https://www.facebook.com/haikelouzahrirmusic>

30. Rob Phillips Siren 'Lawless Life'
From the album: 'Lawless Life'
<https://facebook.com.60MRecordsOnlineShop>

48. Fall From Eden 'Denial Of Fate'
From the album: 'Grant Us Eyes'
<https://www.facebook.com/fallfromedenofficial>

66. Soul Rash 'Welcome Home'
From the album: 'Covid Sessions'
<https://www.facebook.com/soulrashtheband>

14. The Mileage 'Dreary Days In The Job Jungle'
From the album: 'More Mileage'
<https://www.facebook.com/TheMileageBand>

31. Emblazed 'Taking A Chance'
From the album: 'Baptized'
<https://www.facebook.com/EmblazedOfficial>

49. Quad Machine 'Supremacy'
From the album: 'New Earth'
<https://quadmachine.bandcamp.com>

67. Born Healer 'One Of These Days'
From the album: 'Herbs, Roots, Barks, Etc.'
<https://www.bornhealer.com>

15. The Loose Tongues 'Bad Blues'
From the album: 'The Loose Tongues'
<https://www.facebook.com/theloosestongues>

32. Timeless Haunt 'Embrace The Haunt'
From the album: 'Dark For Life'
www.TimelessHaunt.com

50. Hell Gun 'Revolution Blade'
From the album: 'Kings Of Beyond'
<https://www.facebook.com/bandaHellGun>

68. Rip Ryde 'My Oh My'
From the album: 'A Taste For The Kill'
<https://www.facebook.com/Rip-Ryde-107470178591787>

Group 2: Heavy Metal, Power Metal, Symphonic Metal and Progressive Metal

33. Induced 'Unstoppable'
From the album: 'Hidden Dimension'
<https://www.facebook.com/Inducedpl>

51. Phrenetix 'Blaze Of Alienation'
From the album: 'Phrenetix'
<https://www.phrenetixband.com>

69. Boneyard 'Gone'
From the album: 'Oathbreaker'
<http://www.boneyardrocks.ca>

16. Scream Maker 'Mirror, Mirror'
From the album: 'BloodKing'
<http://screammaker.com>

34. Mycellium Network 'Suited And Booted'
From the album: 'A Matter Of Love Or Death'
<https://www.facebook.com/mycelliumnet67>

52. Innasanatorium 'The Desire'
From the album: 'Odyssey Of The Mind'
<https://www.innasanatorium.com>

70. Black Solstice 'Ember'
From the album: 'Ember'
<https://www.facebook.com/blacksolsticesthlm>

17. Reviver 'Into The Tomb'
From the album: 'A Thousand Lives'
<https://www.reviverofficial.com>

35. Kardinal X 'St Agony'
From the album: 'The Revolution'
<https://www.facebook.com/kardinalx>

53. Irontree 'Chemical Sleep'
From the album: 'The Faceless'
<https://www.irontree.de>

- 71. Sicadelica 'Tan Facil'**
From the album: *En Silencio*
<https://www.facebook.com/sicadelica>
- 72. Lobster 'Two Walls'**
From the Single: 'Two Walls'
<https://www.facebook.com/rockbandlobster>
- 73. Laci Violet 'Snakebite'**
From the album: 'Laci Violet'
www.lacioviolet.com
- 74. Restless 'Bad Addiction'**
From the album: 'Superload'
<https://www.facebook.com/restlessrocks>
- 75. Dark Water Collective 'From The Ashes'**
From the album: 'Waiting For Apophis'
<https://www.facebook.com/DarkWaterCollectiveMusic>
- 76. Ransom 'Divided State'**
From the album: *Back To The Boozer*
<https://ransom.rocks>
- 77. Danny Veras 'Wanted Dead Or Alive'**
From the album: 'Under The Influence'
<https://www.facebook.com/dannyverasmusic>
- 78. 32AD 'Infinite Understanding'**
From the album: 'Enough For Me'
<https://www.facebook.com/32ADmusic>
- 79. Amplified! 'Make It Through'**
From the album: 'Mental Decay'
<https://www.amplifiedband.com>
- Group 5: Progressive Rock, Psychedelic and Instrumental**
- 80. Vienna Circle 'Secrets Of The Rising Sun'**
From the album: 'Secrets Of The Rising Sun'
www.viennacircle.bandcamp.com
- 81. Galaxy 'Talk To Me'**
From the album: 'Runaway Men'
<https://www.facebook.com/RunawayMen>
- 82. Deaton LeMay Project 'Music'**
From the album: 'The Fifth Element'
<https://deatonlemayproject.com>
- 83. Gabriel Keller 'Time (Feat. Emi B)'**
From the album: 'Clair Obscur'
<https://gabrielkeller.fr>
- 84. PRP 'Rubber Hands, Pt II – Days'**
From the album: 'No Pristine Rubbery Perception'
<https://www.facebook.com/PRPprog>
- 85. Andrew Roussak 'Crossing The Line'**
From the album: 'Crossing The Line'
<http://www.andrew-roussak.com>
- 86. Snowman 'Gratitude'**
From the album: 'In A Better Place'
<https://www.facebook.com/snowmanprogrock>
- 87. Quicksilver Night 'Ameles Potamos'**
From the album: 'Asmptote'
<https://quicksilvernight.com>
- 88. PMI 'Find My Mood'**
From the album: 'Assorted Madness Layers'
<https://www.facebook.com/PepeMorenoIsla>
- 89. Kenny Bissett 'Radiate'**
From the album: 'The Balancing Act'
<https://www.kennybissett.com>
- 90. Joe Bailey 'Holmes Sweet Holmes'**
From the album: 'Devil in the white City'
<https://www.facebook.com/joebaileyuk>
- 91. Hanlon's Razor 'Paradigm'**
From the album: 'Paradigm'
<https://www.facebook.com/hanlonsrazorband>
- 92. The Black Flash 'Victim Of The Century'**
From the album: *Remain in Darkness*
<https://www.facebook.com/theblackflashmusic>
- 93. Glacier 'The Man Who Cried'**
From the album: 'Island In The Sky'
<https://glaciermusicuk.co.uk>
- 94. Half Moon Panic 'Hold On Tight'**
From the album: 'Welcome To The Small Time'
<https://halfmoonpanic.co.uk/>
- 95. Vertical Hair Factory 'Afterlife'**
From the album: 'Afterlife'
<https://verticalhairfactory.bandcamp.com>
- 96. Syrek 'I Think It's A Monster'**
From the album: 'Story'
<https://www.terrysyrrek.com>
- 97. Christopher Wira 'Let The Love Shine'**
From the album: 'In The Darkness'
www.trellismusic.com
- 98. Ray Gilman 'Speechless'**
From the album: 'Speechless'
www.raygilman.com
- 99. Jimmy Ryan 'Starlord'**
From the album: 'Astral Café'
www.ryanetics.com
- 100. Dan Jones 'Disclosure'**
From the album: 'Zero Four Nine'
<https://www.facebook.com/danjonesguitaristuk>
- 101. Xavier Boscher 'Sea Serpent'**
From the album: 'Cosmic Variations'
www.xavierboscher.com
- 102. Arnaud Quevedo & Friends 'Prologue'**
From the album: 'Roan'
<https://www.arnaudquevedo.com>
- 103. Dimitris Gallikas 'Octav Attack'**
From the album: 'Thoughts And Emotions In Unison'
<https://dimgall.bandcamp.com>
- 104. The Chapel Fire 'The Clout'**
From the album: 'Filters'
<https://www.facebook.com/TheChapelFire>
- 105. Two Headed Emperor 'Deracination'**
From the album: 'Deracination'
<https://www.facebook.com/twoheadedemperor>
- 106. Sónus 'Usurper Of The Universe'**
From the album: 'Usurper Of The Universe'
<https://www.facebook.com/sonusrocks/>
- 107. Siselabonga 'Yow Me De'**
From the album: 'YOW'
<http://siselabonga.com>
- 108. Two Headed Emperor 'Strange Sister'**
From the album: 'Deracination'
<https://www.facebook.com/twoheadedemperor>
- 109. Flying Rabbit 'In The Middle'**
From the album: 'Paradox'
<https://www.facebook.com/flyingrabbitband>
- 110. A Distorted Perception 'Left Of Us'**
From the album: 'The Plague Of One'
<https://www.facebook.com/ADistortedPerception>
- 111. Tao Of Lucy 'Black Sunday'**
From the album: 'In Lieu'
<https://www.taoolucy.com>
- 112. Brut Oss 'On-Off'**
From the album: 'Brut Oss'
<https://www.facebook.com/BrutOssStonerBand>
- Group 6: Alternative Rock And Metal, Indie, Goth, Stoner and Grunge**
- 113. Regulus 'Fuchsia'**
From the album: 'Pulse'
<https://regulusband.bandcamp.com>
- 114. No Names 'Days Of Fire'**
From the album: 'Piano 21'
www.no-names.it
- 115. City Weezy 'She's A Stomper'**
From the album: 'No 2'
<https://cityweezy.bandcamp.com>
- 116. Black Smiths 'Shaman's Dance'**
From the album: 'Southside'
<https://www.facebook.com/blacksmithsofficial>
- 117. Dak Houze 'Качаешь моё Солнце'**
From the album: 'Вечно живы'
<https://dakhouze.bandcamp.com/>
- 118. Skunkbone 'Endoscopy'**
From the album: 'Infirmity'
<https://www.facebook.com/skunkboneband/>
- 119. Love Your Witch 'Butha'**
From the album: 'Wow!'
<https://www.facebook.com/stonertrashwitches>
- 120. Airbus 'You'**
From the album: 'You'
<http://www.airbusmusic.com>
- 121. XCIII 'Red Lights'**
From the album: 'Void'
<http://www.xciii-music.fr>
- 122. Chris Wicked (feat. Gaahl) 'Aleine'**
From the album: 'Aliene'
<https://www.chriswicked.net>
- 123. Little Black Bird 'Crow'**
From the album: *Little Black Bird*
<https://www.facebook.com/littleblackbirdband>
- 124. Victor Sierra 'The Witness'**
From the album: *Imperfect Meridians*
<https://www.victorsierra.net>
- 125. Albert 'War Torn World'**
From the album: 'Crowned Julez'
<https://julianalbert.wixsite.com/albertaudio>
- 126. Frau Fleischer 'Fashion'**
From the album: 'When The Sun's Down'
<https://www.facebook.com/fraufleischerbandofficial>
- 127. Agents Of Exile 'Die Simple'**
From the album: 'Otherside'
<https://www.facebook.com/Agents-of-Exile-203380463040418>
- 128. Braindead Wavelength 'Life's Funny Ways'**
From the album: 'Life's Funny Ways'
<https://braindeadwavelength.bandcamp.com>
- 129. Affection 'Highway Of Denial'**
From the album: 'Remnants'
<https://www.facebook.com/affectionmusic>
- 130. Spacegoat 'Miasma'**
From the album: 'Catharsis'
www.spacegoatband.com
- 131. Yard Of Blondes 'Hummingbird'**
From the album: 'Feed The Moon'
<https://www.yardofblondes.com>
- 132. Virgins Of The Seven Seas 'Mountain'**
From the album: *Bedrocan*
<https://www.vot7s.bandcamp.com>
- 133. Porcelain Shards 'Claws And Talons'**
From the album: 'Perfect Storm'
<https://facebook.com/PorcelainShards>
- 134. Amon The Sign 'I Believe In You'**
From the album: 'Hunger For Darkness'
<https://www.facebook.com/Amonthesign>
- 135. Shake Me 'Savage Love'**
From the album: 'Lullaby For Demons'
<http://www.shakemerecordsevents.com>
- 136. Antabus 'Stonebridge'**
From the album: *Season Ender*
<https://www.facebook.com/Antabus-103557371815426>
- Group 7: The Editor's Collection**
- 137. Fluffer 'Angel High'**
From the album: 'Technonauts'
www.flufferrocks.com
- 138. Wicked Stone 'Say Goodbye To Yesterday'**
From the album: 'Synergy'
<https://www.facebook.com/wickedstonemusic>
- 139. Pressure 'Get A Real Job'**
From the album: 'In A Dark Heart We Trust'
www.xingrecords.com
- 140. My Diligence 'On The Wire'**
From the album: 'The Matter, Form And Power'
<https://www.facebook.com/mydiligence>
- 141. Bang Bang Firecracker 'Father Genocide'**
From the album: 'Hear Evil'
<https://www.facebook.com/Bangbangfirecracker>
- 142. Black Reuss 'Hole'**
From the album: 'Journey'
<https://www.facebook.com/blackreuss>
- 143. Deaton Lemay Project 'Music'**
From the album: 'The Fifth Element'
<https://www.facebook.com/DeatonLemayProject>
- 144. Cross Eyed Lover 'Gutter Crawl'**
From the album: 'Blonde Zombie'
<https://www.facebook.com/crosseyedlover>
- 145. The Now 'Rockstar'**
From the album: 'The Truth Always Come Out In The End'
<https://www.facebook.com/TheNowUK>
- 146. Man Machine Industry 'Information Overload'**
From the album: 'Eschaton I. Reckoning Day'
<https://www.facebook.com/manmachineindustry>
- 147. Hämärä 'Under The Sun'**
From the album: 'Ivory Tower'
<https://www.facebook.com/HamaraMetal>
- 148. Flush 'Weak And Wrong'**
From the EP: 'Conspiracies, Threats And Chaos'
<http://flush.rocks>
- 149. Elektrik Mistress 'Radio'**
From the EP: 'Chapter 99'
<https://www.facebook.com/ElektrikMistress>
- 150. The Injester 'The Ligament Necklace'**
From the album: 'A Spectacle To Behold'
<https://www.facebook.com/TheInjester>
- 151. Dampf 'The Other Side'**
From the album: 'The Arrival'
<https://www.facebook.com/dampf.official>

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the metal is
always hot!**

EDITORIAL

OK, I admit it, I got things wrong last month and I apologise unreservedly to anyone who was upset or offended, and also to the others on my team at Powerplay who I know have taken some stick because of last issue's The SoapGirls story and pictures which were not appropriate for Powerplay. I also need to apologise to their manager Sam Debray. I misheard/misunderstood one of our conversations in a noisy van and I need to clarify that she does not, as I incorrectly wrote in my story, have a criminal record. Speaking of inappropriate, I would like to just add that some of the things written about me on social media following the publication of last month's magazine were pretty damn offensive, but I'm grateful to those who took the time to express their views, negative though they were, in a constructive manner. At the end of the day I don't really care what people write about me; I have a job to do and I do it to the best of my ability, and I believe that the insults and vitriol tell you more about the people who have the time, will and anger to pour out such hatred on a lowly independent music magazine editor than they ever do about me. Sure, I get it, because what I do is in the public domain, every decision I make is open to criticism, but if the worst thing in your day is my editorial screw-up in a music magazine then I'd politely suggest that in this time of war in Europe and an impending world food crisis you might want to focus that energy into more worthwhile endeavours.

Anyway, back to business as usual, and Powerplay favourites Powerwolf whose visually spectacular *'The Monumental Mass'* release should be investigated by anyone with an interest in the power metal genre. Originally broadcast as a livestream a little while after lockdowns had started to be eased and real live concert events were up and running again, mainly because the huge production took so long to create, it is a masterpiece example of a band making the very best of a bad situation.

Also this month Arch Enemy continue to cement their place at the top of the tree when it comes to death metal of the melodic kind with *'Deceivers'*, their third album since recruiting Alissa White-Gluz to fill the vocalist slot vacated by Angela Gossow, and Motionless In White are releasing their highly anticipated follow-up to 2019's *'Disguise'*. That was my pick for album of the year back then and I'll be very surprised if anything in the latter half of 2022 can top their new offering *'Scoring The end Of The World'* for me this year but I'll be happy if the universe wants to send a thousand great albums my way in an attempt to frustrate my prediction!

Finally this month, I have another one of our special feature that's done, dusted and has been ready to roll for a couple of months, but with so many incredible tours taking place I've had to put it on hold due to lack of space. As problems go, it's not one that I'll complain about. Maybe next time, eh? See you then.



Mark

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Artist: Christopher Wira
Album Title: In the Darkness
Label: Independent
Genre: Hard Rock, Orchestral, Instrumental



Description:

In *The Darkness* is an album by Christopher Wira which fuses his Hard Rock background with his love of orchestral music. The eight songs take the listener on a journey through time and space as they experience the birth of time and the creation life. Each piece has a unique feel which tells a story about the formation of different parts of the universe and our world. From the spacey clean guitars, through the gentle winds and strings, to the potent horns with the hard rock guitars, bass and drums, this album covers a variety of melodic emotions as it churns through the building blocks of existence.

Influences for the album:

Several musicians have influenced Christopher over the years. Guns N' Roses and Pink Floyd are at the top of the Rock list followed by Led Zeppelin, Alice In Chains, and Alice Cooper. On the classical side his favorite composer is Camille Saint-Saëns, and also has great appreciation for Mozart, Aaron Copland and John Williams.

Line-Up:
Christopher Wira - composer/guitars/bass

CD Track Listing:

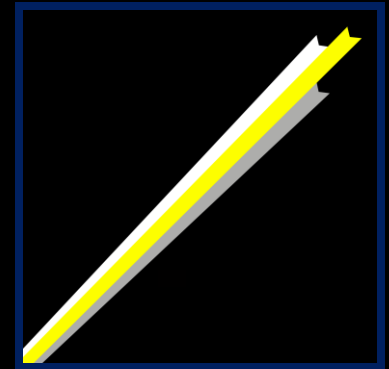
- 1- Nothing But An Idea
- 2- Let The Love Shine
- 3- Expanse Of The Heavens
- 4- Fire From Within
- 5- Seasons And Stars
- 6- Soaring Into The Depths
- 7- Mankind And Son
- 8- Rest

Hailing from New Hampshire, USA we find Hard Rock, Orchestral, Instrumental solo artist **CHRISTOPHER WIRA** and he has an excellent new eight track CD out now called 'In the Darkness' which runs in at just over seventy minutes long and is the bands sixth release, but debut release as a solo artist.

It's Thursday afternoon, spring is almost here but today it's cold with rain and sleet coming down. It's New England weather at its most miserable, especially when the previous day felt great for playing some golf. We're in the recording studio with Christopher, with a cup of coffee and a few guitars and amps around us. His German Shepherd lays on the floor waiting to hear some music as we settle in to talk about his new album 'In the Darkness'.

Wira thinks that he has never been a typical artist from the outset. He does have the qualities of some musicians, that of being overly driven to achieve something unique that reveals his soul to the listener. With all the music that he makes, his goal is to reveal his thoughts, feelings, and heart to the listener. Ironically, he has never fitted into the preconceived boxes that are used to categorize musicians. "I'm a rocker, but I'm not covered in tattoo's and don't wear

jewelry. I love classical music, but can't stand suits and aristocracy. Plus I'm dyslexic, so I have a hard time reading and scoring music, even though there was an immense level of scored orchestra for this album. This work has fused my rock and classical worlds through a deep spiritual drive and passion. By not fitting into the boxes of societal expectation, I've been able to compose and complete this project because I place music before the musical rules of the day. Plus, I've had great spiritual support while working on this album," he expresses.



Wira dipped his toe in the ocean of music in the early years of school with a wooden flute called a recorder. "We were also shown African drum beats and other types of music from around the world. A couple years after that I played the sax for a bit. Dropping it on a cement floor was about the end of that experiment," he explains. His mother then signed him up for piano lessons, which went on for several years, but because of his dyslexia reading notes was very difficult. Then in High School he picked up a guitar which was sitting around the house, and that just clicked with him. He started playing all the time and did everything by ear. "I figured out the blues scales, then built the other

scales off of them. At this point, my parents thought I should have some lessons, so I took four. The lessons ended and the playing went on. I also took some classical guitar lessons for a little while, but my heart was already locked in on Hard Rock. While I did learn a couple covers, song writing came naturally to me, so I focused on playing whatever came through my hands. At the same time, one of my brothers started playing guitar so we would rock together. What made it awesome was he was a natural rhythm guitarist, and I was a soloist, so we blended together perfectly. We played together from our garage, to the Whisky a Go-Go having a great time with it all," he smiles. Wira has been influenced by several musicians. Guns N' Roses and Pink Floyd are at the top of the list for Rock. On the classical side his favourite composer is Camille Saint-Saëns. His new album 'In the Darkness' utilizes every musical influence and ability he has, and then some that he does not have. "The way this album came about was by a spiritual experience I had. Near the end of the experience, I was told that I would compose this album and I would begin in two weeks. So time went by, I began to doubt what I had gone through and forgot about the timeline. One day I was sitting on my futon with my guitar and I wrote this really cool clean guitar part. I recorded it. Then I recorded a guitar solo over it, and in around ten minutes. I had recorded the first draft of 'Let The Love Shine'. It then hit me that this moment was exactly two weeks from the experience. So then this project began. I didn't have any recording tools other than an old beat up ur-

track. So I started learning about and building a home studio in my apartment in Los Angeles. I picked Cakewalk because it was the only DAW that had scoring. I was never good at scoring, had very little understanding of music theory, but all of a sudden I was composing this massive orchestral piece which had instruments, such as the English Horn, which I had never heard of before. This project is still kind of a blur, all I can say is that I had this huge drive to make this music which was unlike anything I had done before. This album is the result," he expresses.



When he is not writing or performing Wira has recently gotten into golf. "One personal tradition I've had is that I've gone to the driving range on my birthday. That was about the extent of my golf experience until about a year ago. During covid I started playing golf on Xbox with a friend of mine who had quite a bit of knowledge of the sport. What really got me into it was the thought process while playing. While it seems like it's a simple sport where you just go out and hit a ball, it's all the little things which I really enjoy. Such as knowing what club to use, what type

of shot to take, or where to try to place the shot. I really enjoy the thought process of the game and talking through the options with friends. So I bought some clubs and have been trying to hit the ball with more purpose than just distance," he tells me. The new album 'In the Darkness' tells the story of creation and is the fusion of his own Rock and Classical worlds. While it incorporates the biblical story of the seven days of creation, there's a bit more to it than that. "The first song 'Nothing But An Idea' is about the pre-time moment before creation occurred. It is the story of the spark when God decided to create time and physical existence. This is why the guitars and sound are a bit wispy. It takes place on the spiritual plane. As the idea grows, and all the different options for the physical timeline get clearer, the song builds and the rock band comes in because something big happens," he explains to me. As the album continues, each song is unique and tells its own story. Some are more orchestral focused, while others are driven by the guitar and rock band. "This interaction between the rock and classical worlds made telling this story possible. After completing the first draft, I layed down to listen to the music. I could see the songs and their stories in a physical form, like a movie. It's really in depth and reveals stuff I couldn't have imagined. Like the story in the first song, who thought there was an idea of time and existence before time and existence? I never thought of that and didn't understand it until after I wrote the song. I didn't understand much of the

music till after I was well into the project. Though, a couple of the songs, such as 'Soaring Into The Depths', I knew would be about birds and sea creatures before getting that deep into the melodies," he expresses. There are a few unique differences between this album and his previous releases. This is the first time he has released music with a full orchestra. "I've dabbled a bit with strings and percussion, but nothing like this before. It's also the first time I've used more than my own guitars. My acoustic didn't sound right for this album, so a friend of mine let me borrow his top of the line yamaha nylon and acoustic guitars. They were used most on Seasons And Stars. It made possible the guitar duet between the nylon and my Les Paul. That's a pair I've never even considered putting together before, but it just felt natural to do," he says with spirit.



"One really cool difference that happened with this album was right before I had finished it, my computer crashed, and I hadn't backed up any of the files. So for about three days I wasn't sure if my life's work had been erased and lost. Thankfully none of the files were lost or corrupted and after about a week I had my studio back up and operational. What a moment though," he smiles. The album was recorded in Wira's home studio, and he composed, scored, and played all the instruments

on it, using Opus for the orchestral samples. He also produced it, but before it was complete he brought it to the friend that had loaned him his Yamaha guitars, Chris Dacato. "He's worked on a lot of music throughout his career, playing piano for Sully, but also making his own stuff that covers many genres. He gave me great insights on the drums and the overall mix and master. Thankfully, he was really honest, so when I brought it to him the fourth time and he said it was "dialed", I knew I had hit a level of quality I hadn't achieved before," he adds. "As for the process, it was completed in two parts. The first draft was done years ago, and probably took around a year, but I'm not really sure. The project sat on the sidelines for a while. Then a little less than a year ago it was time to upgrade, finalize, and complete. So the active time I worked on it is probably around two years or so."

Over the entire time working on this album, the song that has held a special place for Wira is the song called 'Seasons and Stars'. "I never understood why, until I listened to it a couple days ago right before sending it off to be released. The story within 'Seasons and Stars' begins with the melodies traversing the four seasons. After that, it branches off into the finishing of the stars and planets in the universe. I couldn't fully understand what was going on with the duet and solo's other than thinking it was just the awesomeness of the universe coming into the way we see it now. While reviewing it, I realized that while it has all that meaning on one level, my story and journey are also

imprinted within the music. There is an entirely different personal layer, which walks similar to the creation of the seasons and outer space," he expresses. "It hit me in one of those moments where a spark flashes, and then all this information just washed over you. I finally got it, and understood why that song has always had a special place in my heart." There aren't any live shows for this at the moment, and Wira would like to turn it into a movie though. "The coronavirus and the lockdowns provided the moment for me to dive back into this piece of work.



For a musician with a home studio, being forced to stay there is kind of a blessing. Since I worked on this alone, my time was basically in the studio, or going food shopping when the stores had low traffic," he adds. He has already started working on a Hard Rock album with a new singer. "We're looking into putting a full band together, but right now we're in the writing phase. We've got around ten songs that are in their initial phases. We're hoping to do some touring, at least in the few states around us. In addition to that I've got another orchestral piece that I composed after 'In the Darkness' that I'm excited to turn into a final draft. It has its own unique story and is different in

certain ways, so I'm not sure how I would even release it, but those are issues for me down the road. Right now I just have to stay focused on the work I want to get done," concludes Christopher, bringing an end to our conversation.

'In the Darkness' is out on the traditional streaming sites such as Spotify and Apple Music, check it out.

Check the artist out at:

www.trellismusic.com

<https://christopherwira.hearnow.com/in-the-darkness>