

KAMELOT, The Awakening, 2023

SLOGAN:

Heavy symphonic icons KAMELOT raise the bar like never before, awakening the world with their highly-anticipated 13th studio album!

PI:

As one of the most innovative and prestigious bands in modern symphonic metal, heavy icons **KAMELOT** have reigned supreme with the release of internationally top-charting melodic metal pinnacles such as *The Fourth Legacy* (1999), *The Black Halo* (2005), *Silverthorn* (2012), *Haven* (2015, #1 US Hard Rock Albums), and most recently 2018's acclaimed *The Shadow Theory* (#2 US Hard Music Albums, and an album *Metal Hammer* dubbed, "so epic it could be a film soundtrack"), and by headlining tours worldwide and delivering massive performances at top festivals around the globe. Now, the quintet set their sights beyond formulaic confines with their most introspective, uplifting, vital release to date - their first full-length in five years, 2023's aptly titled ***The Awakening***. The album shines as a massive and diverse offering mixing symphonic, melodic and power metal styles, yielding some of the heaviest tracks in **KAMELOT**'s history.

KAMELOT is one of few bands in the symphonic genre to fully embrace the dark, but of course, there can be no light without it. Inspiring, engaging lyrical themes of determination, strength, overcoming personal battles and growth are abound on ***The Awakening***, provoked by extreme societal shifts and the overwhelming realization that we have such a brief time to be true to ourselves and live life to its fullest. With crystal clear modern production helmed by the band and longtime producer Sascha Paeth, plus mastering by Jacob Hansen of Hansen Studios, **KAMELOT**'s score-like 13th studio album is accented by guest contributions from the likes of Melissa Bonny (**Ad Infinitum**) and renowned instrumentalists like violinist Florian Janoske and Grammy nominated, soundtrack-featured cellist Tina Guo.

Tracks honoring **KAMELOT** trademarks like cinematic "*The Great Divide*" and darkly hopeful eternal farewell to a loved one, "*Eventide*", prove that while ***The Awakening*** stays true to the aural foundations fans have embraced for decades, equally-addictive outputs like "*One More Flag in the Ground*" - a radio-ready anthem about overcoming seemingly unbeatable illness and the mental challenges we all face, featuring additional vocal layers from JUNO Award winning musician and producer Brian Howes - showcase a band devoid of sonic stagnancy. Profound compositions are plentiful, like stage-ready, operatic "*Opus of the Night (Ghost Requiem)*", which features a hair-raising dual solo from guitarist Thomas Youngblood and guest cellist Tina Guo, as well as epic, synth-laden "*New Babylon*", elevated by the dynamic vocal attack of frontman Tommy Karevik and **Ad Infinitum**'s Melissa Bonny. Further balancing darkness with light, grooving, heartfelt "*NightSky*" and ode to conquering one's adversities "*My Pantheon (Forevermore)*" boast some of the album's heaviest moments and most complex guitar solos, while pensive hymns such as Celtic-infused "*Midsummer's Eve*" and ebbing-and-flowing hymn of cherished memories "*Willow*" provide necessary balance to an album fittingly primed for spectacular performances to come. Showcasing the incomparable, stage-seasoned vocal acrobatics of Tommy Karevik and increasingly airtight, renowned technical teamwork of guitarist Thomas Youngblood, drummer Alex Landenburg, keyboardist Oliver Palotai and bassist Sean Tibbetts, ***The Awakening*** embraces enlivening themes that every listener can relate to. **KAMELOT**'s intense brand of ultramodern gothic and symphonic theatricality is amplified further and with more emotionality than ever on this inspiring, anticipated addition to the **KAMELOT** legacy.