



Ex Libris Biography 2014

Progressive powerhouse Ex Libris entered the world of heavy music in 2004. Hailing from the Netherlands, a country known for its big and diverse female-fronted scene, they stand out as a unique voice within the genre. Classically trained soprano Dianne van Giersbergen soars and whispers throughout big, bombastic songs that are not only impressive in length, but also in sheer, raw power.

There is ample room for progressive licks, melodies and solo's next to atmospheric, soothing soundscapes and inventive musical escapades. But make no mistake, they put the pedal to the metal. Pounding double bass drums, furious riffs and frighteningly intense vocals all combine to make Ex Libris a singular force in the demanding world of female-fronted music. Expect full-on musicianship, epic songwriting, extreme dynamics and the full emotional spectrum from one of the most gifted female voices in The Netherlands.

History

Ex Libris was founded in 2003 by van Giersbergen and former drummer Joost van de Pas. Their aim: to make progressive, symphonic metal with classical influences. With their first proper line-up complete in 2004 (with former guitarist Eva Albers and current members Paul van den Broek (guitars) and Koen Stam (keys)), they started playing local shows. Bass player Peter den Bakker joined the band during the recordings of debut album "Amygdala" (2008).

The album was well received, with bigger shows as a result. More people took notice, and supporting shows for the likes of Epica, Stream of Passion and ReVamp took the band to greater heights. They also played more and more shows abroad, in countries like Germany, France, Belgium and most recently the U.K with Delain. Early 2013, Ex Libris was joined by drummer Eelco van der Meer (Ethereal). In the summer of 2013, Dianne also joined German genre-leaders Xandria.

Medea

Ex Libris in its current form started writing and recording its second album "Medea", a 60+ minutes full concept album based around the famous Greek tragedy. On this album, the band further develops its ambitious and daring approach to songwriting. "Medea", featuring Damian Wilson (Threshold, Maiden united) in the role of Jason, is a musical experience that is as dramatic and intense as its story. Combining a perfect emotional interpretation with impressive musical skills, "Medea" will appeal to adventurous minds from the metal, prog and female fronted audiences alike.

"Medea" will be released with an exclusive showcase in W2 Den Bosch (NL) on January 18th, 2014.

Press

'..the variations keep your attention; it's like a bag with a lot of different exciting candy.'

Sonic Cathedral

'Their singer is called Dianne van Giersbergen, a young woman who has nothing to envy to the biggest names of the genre.'

La Grosse Radio

'Ex Libris moves into uncharted territory..'

Heavy Law

'The combination of bombastic progressive metal and the classical interpretation of Dianne van Giersbergen is rock solid.'

Utrecht Roxx

'As a measure of how impressive they were, the merch stand was pretty much cleaned out within a few minutes of their set ending.'

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