



HEATHEN FORAY

OFFICIAL PRESS KIT





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BIOGRAPHY

Heathen Foray is a melodic death metal band from Graz, Austria. The band was founded by Jürgen Brüder in 2006 with the goal to play a unique blend of Ensiferum, Amon Amarth and Blind Guardian inspired music.

First members were soon found and after a first gig on 12th December 2006, the band decided to record a demo. The "Forest" demo line-up consisted of Jürgen Brüder (Guitars) and Bernd "Zuhan" Zahn (Guitars), C. Michael Hofbauer (Drums), Robert Schroll (Vocals) und Markus Wildinger (Bass). The demo was released in August 2007 and the band continued to play gigs in Austria for the next months.

In 2008 the band was invited to play the Paganfest 2008 as support for Ensiferum (FIN), Moonsorrow (FIN), Korpiklaani (FIN), Tyr (FO) and Eluveitie (CH). In Spring 2008, the band went back to the studio to record their first full-length album. "The Passage" leads to a record deal with the German label Black Bards Entertainment. "The Passage" was welcomed with open arms by critics. The album received ratings of 70-90%, the title of "Best Austrian Newcomer 2009 (folkmetal.at)" and a nomination for "Best Pagan-Album 2009 (metalstorm.net)".

During 2009, the band embarked on their first European tour with Battelore (FIN) and a second tour with Nomans Land (RUS) and Obscurity (GER). "The Passage" proofed so successful, that the band decided to release a 2nd album in the following year and re-entered the studio.

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"Armored Bards" was released through Black Bards Entertainment on 24th September 2010 and followed with a tour through Europe with Black Messiah (GER), Adorned Brood (GER), Nomans Land (RUS) and Negura Bunget (RO). The band also opened "Heidenfest" in Vienna for Ensiferum (FIN), Equilibrium (GER), Twilight of the Gods (EU) and Swashbuckle (USA). "Armored Bards" proved to be even more successful and the average review score hit 90%.

At the height of the success of the band's second album, Jürgen and other bandmembers decided to leave the band. Alex Wildinger (Guitars) and Markus "Puma" Kügerl (Drums) joined to form a full line-up again.

The third album "Inner Force" was released on 11th September 2013 and followed by another Tour of Europe.

The fourth album "Into Battle" was released in 2015 through Massacre Records. After the release of "Into Battle", Bernd left the band to concentrate on other musical projects. The band decided to go on a longer hiatus which extended to 3 years.

In early 2018, the band reformed a full line-up with founder Jürgen and recorded a fifth album called "Weltenwandel". It was released in February 2020. The album only contains German lyrics and is musically much darker than its predecessors. It received high praise for being experimental and innovative.

In 2023 the band released their 6th studio album "Oathbreaker".





REVIEWS

5 / 5

We are impressed! The band managed to combine their typical pagan elements with harsh Death elements. HEATHEN FORAY have managed to produce an album that is not only musically impressive but also tells a story.
(Metal Underground, "Oathbreaker")

5/5

They've become really accomplished social commentators, and this is an excellent example of their skill at doing so.
(Metal Epidemic, "Oathbreaker")

9.5/10

With Oathbreaker, Heathen Foray have finally risen to being the Austrian figurehead for the whole genre.
(Sound Magnet, "Oathbreaker")

9/10

HEATHEN FORAY continue on their chosen path with "Oathbreaker" and that's a good thing!
(Earshot, "Oathbreaker")

4/5

That's exactly what you always wanted to hear from HEATHEN FORAY: a consistently strong album that hardly shows any signs of wear and tear even after many listens.
(Stormbringer, "Oathbreaker")

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9 / 10

HEATHEN FORAY have created a terrific album with "Oathbreaker". The songs inspire with a high entertainment factor.
(Metal Heads, "Oathbreaker")

4.5 / 5

"With noticeably raw, direct guitar and drum sounds, a full death metal flair was built on this album. The guys are expanding this with a truly entertaining change in terms of sound and additions within the song structures ... "Weltenwandel" by HEATHEN FORAY is a wonderful change in the well-known Melodic Death Metal profession!"
(Metal Underground, "Weltenwandel")

38 / 40

"It's always a challenge when you hear something in a language that's not your own. The music becomes your guide even more profoundly than when you can understand the sentiment of the words. When it does so in the best way, as it does with the latest from melodic pagan metallers HEATHEN FORAY, it's really rewarding..."
(Metal Temple, "Weltenwandel")

6.5 / 7

"On "Weltenwandel", despite a five-year break, the musical path that has always been appreciated by the fans is continued. However, the lyrics have become more serious than before, but musically the same power emanates from the numbers as one would like to have from the Styrians! It's really nice that HEATHEN FORAY are back .. "
(Earshot, "Weltenwandel")

13 / 15

"... the unmistakable signature of HEATHEN FORAY is in each of the eight tracks ... the new record underlines the natural maturation process of a special band..."
(Legacy, "Weltenwandel")



8 / 10

"Technically demanding and played as cleanly as tightly, guitar runs and two-part melodies form an integral part of the songs, which remind you of a mixture of Ensiferum, old Children Of Bodom and Amon Amarth... HEATHEN FORAY present an album with 'Armored Bards', which may not revolutionize Viking / Pagan Death Metal, but brings enough independence and, last but not least, diversity so that every friend of pagan sounds between Equilibrium, Ensiferum and Amon Amarth should risk an ear."

(Metal1.info, "Armored Bards")

82 / 100

"... many live shows have refined this band and they come up with a meritorious second album."

(Lords Of Metal, "Armored Bards")

8,5 / 10

"What a sensational record the Austrians are launching with their second album 'Armored Bards' exceeds my wildest fantasies... even outshines the strong predecessor 'The Passage'... here it becomes stronger, more melodic and above all varied Pagan Battle Metal The finest offered, which is certainly due not least to various tours with Battlelore, Black Messiah or Adorned Brood."

(Powermetal, "Armored Bards")

"Wonderfully heroically tuned, extremely grippy and damn gripping Melodic Pagan Powerspeed Metal with a really completely inspiring interaction, as it couldn't be more punctual and powerful

... credible and worth listening to!"

(EMP, "Armored Bards")

"... I didn't expect such a hit as 'Armored Bards'... I was deeply impressed, because in my opinion this album is a 200 percent increase over the debut 'The Passage'... harder, more voluminous, more virtuoso."

(Pommesgabel, "Armored Bards")



LOGO



New logo since September 2019



Classic logo, retired

DISCOGRAPHY



THE PASSAGE

2009

Black Bards Entertainment



ARMORED BARDS

2010

Black Bards Entertainment



INNER FORCE

2013

Self-Release



INTO BATTLE

2015

Massacre Records



WELTENWANDEL

2020

Massacre Records



OATHBREAKER

2023

Massacre Records







BAND

ROBERT SCHROLL
vocals

JÜRGEN BRÜDER
guitars

ALEX WILDINGER
guitars

MARKUS "MAX" WILDINGER
bass

MARKUS "PUMA" KÜGERL
drums

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