****

**AVANTASIA**

**»A Paranormal Evening With The Moonflower Society«**

##### OUT: October 21st2022

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Line up:** | **AVANTASIA online:** |
| Tobias Sammet | Lead-Vocals, Backing-Vocals, Keyboards, BassSascha Paeth | Rhythm Guitar, Lead Guitar, BassFelix Bohnke | Drums  | www.tobiassammet.com/www.facebook.com/avantasiawww.instagram.com/tobiassammetofficial/www.twitter.com/\_avantasiawww.youtube.com/user/avantasiaofficial |

Darkness descends over the hall, the curtain rises. Dear audience, welcome to the wondrous otherworld of **AVANTASIA**!

With his ninth album, "***A Paranormal Evening with the Moonflower Society***", **Tobias Sammet** invites you to join him on an enchanted journey into his own version of reality, which is full of fantastic events and encounters.

It is a captivating, deeply magical universe that **Tobias Sammet** has built over the past two decades. Since his debut "***The Metal Opera***" (2001), the Peter Pan of international rock and metal has romped between metal, classical and rock, beguiling the biggest festivals around the world with his traveling circus and working with the greatest voices in the metal world including Alice Cooper and Scorpions’ Klaus Meine.

The reward for his passionate work and years on the road: number one in the German album charts for the latest record "***Moonglow***" (2019), more than three million albums sold, over 250 million streams, sold-out world tours, and a fan base that listens to him live and in front of the home speakers with excitement and enthusiasm. Sometimes **Tobias Sammet**, also renowned for being singer, producer and songwriter in **EDGUY**, cannot quite believe it all himself. "My whole life is based on childish ideas and dreams, which amazingly I still get away with," he says incredulously. "Even after 30 years, music is my favourite, biggest, only hobby. And the fact that I can make a living from it fills me with deep gratitude."

But of course he also does a lot for it. The construction of a new studio, for example - an investment that proves to be a pandemic stroke of luck in 2020: In his new realm, **Sammet** could indulge in his art while ignoring the world outside. "I was faced with more time than ever before," he looks back. "So I was paying as much attention to details and little things as I had in my early years. On the last records, I outsourced certain things to my producer **Sascha Paeth**, mostly just to save time. However, now I didn't have to save time. There hasn't been a record that sounded so much like me." Tinkering with sounds for nights, writing parts for his duet partners, arranging and singing the choirs himself - on "***A Paranormal Evening with the Moonflower Society***" **Sammet** is not only impresario, conductor and musician, he also handles a majority of the vocals, and presents himself at the top of his game.

Thus, a truly powerful, enchanted album was created in his new studio that proves to be equally furious, playful, orchestral, epic and profits from **Tobias Sammet**’s musical past and upbringing. "I'm a child of the eighties. I grew up with 'Holy Diver,' Queen, but also 'Take On Me.' Maybe I have given a little more room to my many influences yet the result feels very consistent and coherent." One thing is for sure: **AVANTASIA** has never sounded so fresh, so dynamic and refined, so detached from time and space - a perfect union of the young, hot-headed **Sammet** and the accomplished storyteller of the here and now. Because above all, **AVANTASIA** is about stories, set in a strange, mythical and unique world. "I have processed many things from my life and tailored them to my fantastic characters. As a result, the songs develop a life of their own that others can identify with," **Sammet** says. "Songs are therapeutical for me, so there is always something personal behind the fantastic themes. I want to stimulate the listener's imagination, but not simply offer bland escapism. **AVANTASIA** is not a musical where the wizard defeats the evil forest spirit in the seventh song. There's always more to it."

The project, which used to be particularly famous for its changing guest singers, has long since become a band, a family. "We even have a joint WhatsApp group where there's always something going on," **Sammet** grins. “We are a conspiratorial bunch, a gang."

Also on "***A Paranormal Evening with the Moonflower Society***" a lot of old acquaintances duel with **Tobias Sammet** in the vocal department: **Eric Martin**, **Michael Kiske**, **Ronnie Atkins**, **Geoff Tate** or **Bob Catley**, for example. "I wanted a classic **AVANTASIA** album, so of course I relied on people who accompany **AVANTASIA** for a long time. They are also part of this band, thus there is no need to change that all of a sudden."

Still, of course, there are still voices he has always wanted to work with. On his new album, the contributions from **Floor Jansen** and **Ralf Scheepers** make him particulay happy. He had intended the power ballad ‘Misplaced Among the Angels’ for the Nighwish vocalist. “The song was ready and she could well imagine to sing it but was not sure if it would fit her tone”, **Sammet** details. So, he quickly wrote the rocking, symphonic "Kill The Pain Away" for their duet. “The rest was a matter of days and after she had finished nailing this track, she was more comfortable with “Misplaced Among the Angels”, too, and sang it without further ado. And delivered like a beast!"

As first single, **Sammet** picked the hard-hitting, galloping "The Wicked Rule The Night”, a perfect choice for vocal tornado **Ralf Scheepers**. "Nobody on this planet could have sung this song better," **Sammet** notes. "I wanted to hit people right away with the first single. Can't always be about the gummy bear gang in magic land," he laughs.

From the mystical, driving title track to fragile moments like in "Paper Planes" to the ten-minute closing sensation "Arabesque," **AVANTASIA** go all in. And hit the jackpot.

And this ominous Moonflower Society? For **Sammet**, it symbolises his band: "A moonflower is a creature of the night that blossoms when the world is asleep. For me, it stands on one hand for the weird characters I populate my songs with, and on the other for the weird characters I surround myself with in **AVANTASIA**."

Tracklist:

1. Welcome to the Shadows

2. The Wicked Rule the Night

3. Kill the Pain Away

4. The Inmost Light

5. Misplaced among the Angels

6. I Tame the Storm

7. Paper Plane

8. The Moonflower Society

9. Rhyme and Reason

10. Scars

11. Arabesque

Playing time: 53:58min

The Moonflower Society is:

Tobias Sammet - lead and backing vocals, keyboards, additional bass

Ronnie Atkins- vocals on 'Paper Plane'

Bob Catley - vocals on 'The Moonflower Society'

Floor Jansen - vocals on 'Kill the Pain Away' and 'Misplaced among the Angels'

Michael Kiske - vocals on 'The Inmost Light' & 'Arabesque'

Jorn Lande - vocals on 'I Tame the Storm' & 'Arabesque'

Eric Martin - vocals on 'Rhyme and Reason'

Ralf Scheepers - vocals on 'The Wicked Rule the Night'

Geoff Tate - vocals on 'Scars'

Sascha Paeth - rhythm guitar, lead guitar, bass

Felix Bohnke - drums

Oliver Hartmann - additional lead guitar on track 4 & backing vocals on tracks 1, 3, 6 & 7

Michael Rodenberg - keyboards on track 5 and 11

Herbie Langhans - backing vocals on tracks 1, 3, 6 & 7

Ina Morgan - backing vocals on tracks 1, 3, 6 & 7

Recorded in 2021 at Mysteryhausen Studio, Pathway Studio, Madhat 2, Hansen Studio, Music2Records, and various other studios around the globe

Produced by Sascha Paeth & Tobias Sammet

Engineered by Tobias Sammet, Sascha Paeth, Sheena Sear, Jacob Hansen, Dan Meblin, Carl Johan Grimmark

Mixed by Sascha Paeth

Cover Artwork by Alexander Jansson