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by Václav Votruba

www.metalgate.cz
admin@metalgate.cz



A treat for all local Amorphis fans! Their band biography is getting a Czech edition

This year, the label and publisher MetalGate shall be expanding its offering of metal literature with several titles no less, with a particularly notable one already in the printing plant. The book in question is the official biography of Amorphis, penned by Markus Laakso. To be published by the end of January!

„There is no question that Amorphis are among the metal legends, with many loyal fans around here. We heeded their call and started working on a Czech translation of a book that is simply thrilling. We are delighted to have pulled this one off,” says Ondřej Šmejkal from MetalGate.

The author Markus Laakso worked closely with both current and former band members, so he was right at the source. The idea of getting involved in such a massive project first occurred to Markus back in January 2006, when he interviewed Esa Holopainen and Tomi Joutsen for the Finnish metal magazine *Inferno* on the ground floor of the Helsinki-based restaurant *Ateljé*. *“While listening to the colourful twists and turns of the band’s story, I wondered why anyone hadn’t already compiled it into a book a long time ago,”* he recalls in the book’s introduction. *“I believe I brought up the idea for the first time when I was interviewing Joutsen again for the same magazine three years later. The idea had time to brew for three more years before I finally suggested it to a publisher. Three years from that, the unbelievable survival story of one of Finland’s most influential bands was finally available in book form.”*

There is no question that Amorphis deserved such a book. They are among the most prominent metal bands hailing from Finland; pioneers who were not afraid to fuse death metal with keyboards and folk influences, ultimately crafting their signature style of music. Their crucial albums are *Tales from the Thousand Lakes* and *Elegy*, though their recent albums are also met with great acclaim, thus gaining the band new generations of fans.

“The story of Amorphis has been a stormy one. Sometimes their faith has been tested extremely hard. But whatever the band has done, they have done it out of their love for music,” writes Laakso.

They evolved, they explored new vistas of music, they honed their sound, while always making excellent music that is joy to listen to now as back then. And the best part is that Amorphis are still going strong!