



IRASCIBLE MUSIC

SAMAEL (CH – Sion/Sitten)

Web: www.samael.info

EPK: irascible.ch/de/releases/samael/hegemony

30 years of constant musical evolution – Over a 100 original songs composed and recorded – nearly 1000 concerts given around the globe. The band resurrected black metal in the early '90s, introducing symphonic black metal in the mid '90s and pioneered industrial metal later on.

S A M A E L awaken the 14th of July 1988 when brothers Xytraguptor (*Xy*) and Vorphalack (*Vorph*) load their gear into an atomic bunker. Rehearsing seven days a week they soon record a couple of tracks and release their self-financed 7" *Medieval Prophecy*, which infiltrated the underground scene through mail and small independent distributors.

Two years later, the duet moves to Geneva to record what will become S A M A E L's first album. Facing refusal from the established record industry, the brothers finally ink a deal with freshly started label Osmose Production, which release *Worship Him* in April 1991. With the addition of Masmiseîm on bass the band played shows in France, Germany, Holland, Poland, Russia and Switzerland before heading back to the studio to record *Blood Ritual*. The first collaboration with Waldemar Sorychta and their first release on German ever-growing imprint Century Media.

Ceremony of Opposites is released in February 1994. That album sees S A M A E L taking a turn in their approach of composition and sharing of duties. Xy got in charge of the musical composition while Vorph focuses on the lyrical content. In order to perform the new material on stage, the band recruits local Goth-legend Rodolph H to play the keyboards and be part of the line up for two consecutive years. Three European tours and a first US tour later, the band gets back into the studio to record their mini-album *Rebellion* (1995), before getting back on the road – on a tour that ends in Mexico City, where they'll play their last show with Rodolph H.

A new sound is taking shape and the band's line-up sees the addition of a second guitar player. Kaos joins the band and S A M A E L play eight shows in Europe, where they perform with a drums machine – for the first time live! Two new songs, « Shining Kingdom » and « My Saviour » introduce their upcoming album to the audience. *Passage* is released in August 1996. After an extensive European headlining tour, the band hits the stage of the most notorious open-air festivals of the era : Dynamo, Wacken, With Full Force... In the meantime, Xy works on a classical interpretation of the album and releases it on his own imprint under the

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name *Xytras Passage*. In June 1998, the *Exodus* mini-album is released, giving the band a bit of time to focus on writing new material.

In Montreux (Switzerland) at the world-famous Mountain Studios (which are known today as the Queen museum), S A M A E L records and mixes *Eternal* with late rock producer David Richard. That album will take the band on a long journey of two European and two US headlining tours with two different line-ups. The band's performance at Summer Breez Festival (Germany) will become the core of S A M A E L first DVD *Black Trip*.

Xy and Vorph experiment with electronic music before coming back in full force with *Reign of Light* (2004). Waldemar Sorychta co-produces the album with Xy, and for the first time the band uses the service of Stefan Glaumann to mix their album. The same team works on the following record *Solar Soul* (2007), released worldwide through Nuclear Blast Records.

March 2009, S A M A E L takes everyone by surprise with the release of *Above*, a side project the band had in their drawers for about a decade. Having some time between tours, Xy had updated that project and went to Sweden to mix it with renowned metal producer Fredrik Nordström. The result being atypical but yet challenging, it was decided to release it as the new S A M A E L album and sell it as a tribute to the band's early influences. Not everybody understood the concept and reason within that album, but it took the band on an extensive tour through Europe and America, ending with the band's biggest show to date at Rock al Parque in Bogota (Colombia).

Antigod, later released as single/mini-album, and *Soul Invictus* are the first songs to be played live before the release of *Lux Mundi* (2011). The album was recorded once again in Switzerland, and mixed by the infamous Metal-guru Russ Russel in England. The band makes a strong statement with *Lux Mundi* by building a bridge over 20+ years of existence and connecting all the sides and personalities of the entity known as S A M A E L.

2014 : Xy takes a break from his work with the band and compose sa piece of music for the city of Sion. The project known as *Sedunum* is recorded by an orchestra of 100 musicians, and played for two consecutive years throughout the summer: as a light- and sound show surrounding the two castles of Sion. That same year, the band splits with Mas who's replaced by longtime S A M A E L-fan and former Sybreed member Drop. In 2015 the band revisits their album *Ceremony of Opposites* and plays the entire album live while touring Canada, Poland, Russia and playing some of the biggest European festivals.

Spring 2016: The band is back in studio with Waldemar Sorychta, in July they mix their new album in Sweden with Sefan Glaumann. In January 2017, the band inked a worldwide deal with Napalm Records. *Angel of Wrath* is the first song to be released as a single –followed by *Red Planet* and *Black Supremacy*. On 13th October 2017, *Hegemony* will be released.

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