

ONHEIL

Introduction

Please let us introduce ourselves: we are ONHEIL, a blackened metal band from The Netherlands. The basis of our music is furious black and death metal, to which we add interesting songwriting, memorable hooks and harmonic melodies. We also include influences from other metal genres, like heavy, thrash and doom metal, often taking our music way beyond the borders of traditional extreme metal. In the end, we just try to write a good song.

Our 3 guitarists give us capabilities to create a more unique style that's diverse and layered, while our 2 vocalists create a powerful dual vocal effect. The triple guitar attack adds another dimension to our melodies, riffs and gives us a wider live sound.

On stage, ONHEIL is an unstoppable metal machine, where furious blast beats, fast thrash metal-like riffing, headbanging heavy metal riffs and atmospheric melodic intermezzos deliver a highly energetic performance. Every show ends up in true metal chaos.

Lyrically, ONHEIL is firmly grounded in reality. The subjects range from war and social issues to personal struggle and mental illness, all bound by the realization that we live in a fucked up world. We like to take a bird's eye view and then hold up a mirror to humanity to show them what they really are, even if the subject of the lyrics are provocative and extreme.

Short Biography

ONHEIL is currently celebrating their 25th anniversary! The band was officially started in November 1999 by Amok, immediately releasing an already recorded demo. With a raving review in Holland's and Belgium's largest metal & rock magazine Aardschok, naming one of ONHEIL's songs "one of the best Black Metal songs I've heard in a while", ONHEIL was instantly put on the Dutch metal map.

Their second, full-length, demo, was unleashed on mankind in January 2002. Eternal Frost e-zine (USA) called the sound of ONHEIL "Black Metal Iron Maiden" which was a good indication of the gradual change to a more diverse and melodic sound.

The success of the demo CD's led them to the signing of a contract with War Cry Productions. ONHEIL's first official release, 'The Threat' EP, saw the light of day in June 2003. With this release, small underground 'zines, larger metal magazines and even mainstream music press, such as Holland's leading alternative music magazine Oor, all agreed that ONHEIL now belonged to the top of the Dutch (black) metal scene.

In was March 2007 when 'The New ONHEIL' arose. This new line-up consisted of 3 guitarists and 2 lead singers, giving the band more possibilities to expand their own unique blackened metal sound.

The return was announced with the release of a music video and an online single. ONHEIL continued to spread their name with some awesome live shows, including opening for

MAYHEM, a show with VADER and playing the STONEHENGE FESTIVAL with ENTOMBED and BERPHEGOR. This sparked the interest of German Record label CYCLONE EMPIRE which released ONHEIL's full-length album 'Razor' in 2009. 'Razor' was received extremely well, got high ratings by the media and a lot of shows and festivals were played in Europe.

ONHEIL unleashed their second album 'Storm Is Coming' in 2014. The album has taken the band's musical style to a higher level with its more dynamic compositions and better sounding production. The album was received even better than their previous album, reaching the 'top album' status or '10/10' rating quite a few times. With the help of music videos and social media, ONHEIL's music reached a larger audience, gaining fans throughout Europe, USA, South-America, and even in countries like Japan, Israel, Lithuania, Egypt, Russia, and Indonesia

After some big line-up changes and some Corona pandemic setbacks, ONHEIL made a comeback in June 2023 with a new record label, Swedish BLACK LION RECORDS, and a new album 'In Black Ashes'. Once again this release, that was, mixed and mastered by the legendary Dan Swanö, got an amazing media reception and many fan messages. ONHEIL is back, more furious than ever!

With the success of their three albums, and their diverse sound, ONHEIL was able to share the stages of Europe with many major metal bands from both the black and death metal scene as well as thrash or heavy metal bands. Examples of the festivals played include PARTY.SAN OPEN AIR, EXTREME FEST (in 3 countries), METAL MEAN, STONEHENGE and playing shows with bands like MAYHEM, VADER, ONSLAUGHT, ASPHYX, ROTTING CHRIST, GOD DETHRONED, CARACH ANGREN, THULCANDRA, WIEGEDOOD, and an unfortunately canceled show with, IMMORTAL and KAMPFAR.

In December 2024 ONHEIL will celebrate their 25th anniversary with a sold out show, playing only old school songs from their demo and first album times. Also, some special releases are coming up...

Contact and information

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THE BAND



Amok
Vocals/Guitar



Wrok
Guitar



Káosz
Guitar



Waanzin
Vocals/Bass



Toorn
Drums





ONHEIL - EXTENDED BIOGRAPHY

The early “deadly” days

ONHEIL was officially started in November 1999 by Amok, immediately releasing an already recorded demo ‘Sterf’ (the Dutch word for ‘Die’). With a raving review in Holland’s and Belgium’s largest metal & rock magazine Aardschok, naming one of ONHEIL’s songs “one of the best Black Metal songs I’ve heard in a while”, ONHEIL was instantly put on Holland’s metal map.

Their second, full-length, demo ‘We Hebben De Hel Gezien’ (‘We Have Seen Hell’), was unleashed on mankind in January 2002. This new demo was again received very well. Eternal Frost e-zine (USA) called the sound of ONHEIL “Black Metal Iron Maiden” which was a good indication of the gradual change to a more diverse and melodic sound.

The success of the demo CD’s led them to the signing of a contract with War Cry Productions. ONHEIL’s first official release, mini CD ‘The Threat’, saw the light of day in June 2003. War Cry’s better distribution network expanded sales more throughout Europe and even beyond. With this release small underground ‘zines, larger metal magazines and even mainstream music press, such as Holland’s leading alternative music magazine Oor, all agreed that ONHEIL now belonged to the top of the Dutch (black) metal scene.

In 2004 ONHEIL started doing live shows more often, going to Belgium for the first time. In 2005 some offers came from Germany and for an open-air festival in Austria but, because of the

departure of their drummer, ONHEIL could not accept. In 2006 the seeds for a new age of ONHEIL were planted...

A new 'Razor' sharp beginning

It is March 2007 when 'The New ONHEIL' arises, formed by the fusion between 'The Old ONHEIL', and MARTYR, a melodic black metal band, having released 2 albums (Regimental Records and Black Owl Records). This new line-up had 3 guitarists and 2 lead singers, giving them more possibilities to expand their own unique blackened metal sound.

The return was announced with the release of a music video and online single for their song 'As Hope Dies'. ONHEIL continued to spread their name with some awesome live shows, including opening for Norwegian black metal cult band MAYHEM, a show with Polish death metal legends VADER and playing the STONEHENGE FESTIVAL with ENTOMBED and BERPHEGOR. This sparked the interest of German Record label CYCLONE EMPIRE which released ONHEIL's album 'Razor' in 2009. 'Razor' was received extremely well and got high ratings by the media almost everywhere. A lot of live shows followed. Their music video for "Nemesis' Light Fading" was a small underground hit and was even added to a German ROCK HARD magazine's compilation DVD among major metal and hard rock acts.

A 'Storm is coming'

On the 5th of September 2014 ONHEIL unleashed their second album 'Storm Is Coming', again for record label CYCLONE EMPIRE. This 'Storm' contained 10 tracks of furious yet melodic metal, appealing to a wide range of metalheads. The album has taken ONHEIL's musical style to an even higher level with its more dynamic compositions and better sounding production, done by Bart Hennephof (Ex-TEXTURES) and Yuma van Eekelen (Ex-PESTILENCE) and mastered by Tore Stjerna at the NECROMORBUS STUDIO (NBS) (MAYHEM, WATAIN, SHINING), Sweden.

ONHEIL's recognizable harmonic guitar melodies are also still present making 'Storm Is Coming' even more diverse and a true musical adventure to listen to. The album was received even better than their previous album, reaching the 'top album' status or '10/10' rating quite a few times and getting a lot of media attention.

Their most catchy song 'Self-Destruction Mode' became an instant fan favorite. Backed by the promotion with a high quality music video it is by far the most popular and most played ONHEIL track so far. Despite CYCLONE EMPIRE not wanting to release albums of their artists on digital platforms until the end of 2015, ONHEIL did manage to reach over 111.111 views on their own YouTube channel.

The album's original mix of Black, Thrash, Heavy and Death Metal has given ONHEIL a lot of fans and supporters throughout the world. Responses have been coming from Europe, USA, South-America, even from countries like Japan, Israel, Egypt, Russia, Lithuania, Mexico and Costa Rica.

With the success of their two albums, ONHEIL was able to share the stage throughout Europe with bands like CANNIBAL CORPSE, AUTOPSY, WATAIN, THE DEVIL'S BLOOD, ASPHYX, NAPALM DEATH, DYING FETUS, KRISIUN, ROTTING CHRIST, and the band appeared on festivals such as PARTY.SAN OPEN AIR, EXTREMEFEST(in 3 countries), METAL MEAN, GAHLEN MOSCHT OPEN AIR, BRUTZ & BRAKEL STROMGITARENFEST, OCCULTFEST and ZABBADUSCHER.

Unfortunately, starting from 2016 the, until then, very stable line-up was changing. Two members that had been on board for 7 years and two members that had been part of the band for 17 years, gradually needed to leave the band. Caused by different reasons, most members were not able to give ONHEIL the dedication it demanded or to start recording the next album. In the end only founder Amok was left but he was not planning to give up...

Rise from the black ashes

During 2019 ONHEIL rose from the black ashes. Two former live show substitute musicians, Káosz and Toorn, joined ONHEIL, a bit later the line-up was completed with Wrok and Waanzin. All well-experienced musicians with a good track record of doing live shows with their former bands. The sheer power of this new line-up was displayed at DORDRECHT METAL FEST where the new band members were welcomed with open arms. On stage, ONHEIL is an unstoppable metal machine, where furious blast beats, headbanging heavy metal riffs and atmospheric melodic intermezzos deliver a highly energetic performance. Every show ends up in a true metal party.

ONHEIL started recording a new album in 2020. The Covid-19 epidemic hit The Netherlands in March of that year which had a big effect on the recording process. Pushing through the setbacks, ONHEIL finished recording the instruments a year later.

Not wanting to release the album during the pandemic, ONHEIL took advantage of the Covid lockdowns to improve the album. Guitar solos were written and recorded, something ONHEIL did not have before but which really added a new dimension to the band's sound. Also part of the lyrics were improved and the vocals were recorded. Dan Swanö of the legendary Unisound Studios (EDGE OF SANITY, DISSECTION, BLOODBATH, OPETH, MARDUK, DARK FUNERAL and many more) mixed and mastered the album. The album's cover was created by artist Pedro Sena (AMON AMARTH, KREATOR, SUMMER BREEZE festival) including 6 additional artwork pieces to be used for animated (lyric) videos and merchandise.

ONHEIL made a comeback in June 2023 with a new record label, Swedish BLACK LION RECORDS, and a new album 'In Black Ashes'. Once again this release, that was, mixed and mastered by the legendary Dan Swanö, got an amazing media reception and many fan messages. ONHEIL is back, more furious than ever!

Live show highlights

- PARTY.SAN OPEN AIR 2010 (Germany)
With WATAIN, CANNIBAL CORPSE, NAPALM DEATH, MANEGARM, AUTOPSY.
- EXTREMEFEST 2012 (3 dates in Germany, Switzerland and Austria)
With EXODUS, ASPHYX, SUFFOCATION, Belphegor, CANNIBAL CORPSE, MARDUK.
- METAL MEAN 2010 (Belgium)
With MAYHEM, THYRFING, MACABRE, ROTTING CHRIST, ORPHANED LAND.
- STONEHENGE FESTIVAL 2008 (The Netherlands, Headliner second stage)
With Belphegor, ENTOMBED, SADIST, BURDEN OF GRIEF, DARK AGE.

- WINTERNOISE FESTIVAL 2010
(Germany, whole event cancelled due to mismanagement organisation)
With IMMORTAL, KAMPFAR, DESASTER, INQUISITION.
- Playing many open air and indoor festivals, often as headliner, like BOAR ON THE ROCKS FESTIVAL, ROOSENDAAL OPEN AIR (twice), BRUTZ & BRAKEL STROMGITARRENFEST, OCCULTFEST, GAHLEN MOSCHT OPEN AIR, FROSTFEUERNACHTE, HEADACHE INSIDE, WANTIJPOP, ZABBADUSCHDER OPEN AIR, BIBELOT OPEN AIR.
- Opening for VADER (2007 The Netherlands, 2011 Germany)
- Opening for MAYHEM (2007 The Netherlands, 2010 Belgium)
- Opening for ROTTING CHRIST (2009 and 2017)
- Headliner show at BAROEG, the number 1 underground metal venue of The Netherlands. (2016)
- LOUD AND HEAVY FEST with GOD DETHRONED and more (2021)
- At IN THE GRIP OF WINTER FEST with WIEGEDOOD and more. (2023)
- Playing many shows with bands like ASPHYX, ONSLAUGHT, CARACH ANGREN, MELECHESH, GOD DETHRONED, MAYAN, THULCANDRA, VANDERBUYST, PETER PAN SPEEDROCK.