

The European tour which united **Moonspell** and **Insomnium** this autumn was slowly reaching its end when both bands, accompanied by three supporting acts, visited Hamburg. Before the tour stopped in Oberhausen and Utrecht, Friday evening in Hamburg was spent under the sign of more melodic metal genres.

Despite some technical difficulties, it was worth coming to Markthalle venue early enough to catch the opening artists from **Hinayana**. Death metal performed by the American band turned out to be really melodic as they seamlessly blended heaviness and catchiness in their songs. The material which was featured in their setlist definitely had potential and the gentlemen from **Hinayana** made sure that their thirty-minute set was time well spent. Without a doubt, they are a band worth seeing live. The evening's first support must have been a discovery to many listeners - no doubt why such a band are label mates to **Moonspell**, belonging to no other roster than **Napalm Records**.

Gradually, a bigger audience gathered and started approaching the stage, and the earliest concertgoers could hear for themselves what **Wolfheart** have prepared for the German fans. The mood of the event stayed just as heavy, with plenty of powerful songs which intertwined with captivating melodies and atmospheric parts. Their set was nothing short of perfect for headbanging and starting the mosh pit which was shyly, but steadily forming close to the stage. Already from the first riffs, **Wolfheart**'s music boasted truly majestic, epic sound and the show opener, **Skyforger**, was the best proof for that. The rest of their show sounded just as great and the musicians made sure to interact with the audience and encouraged everyone to come closer.

A similar epic, folk-tinged vibe was also an irreplaceable part of **Borknagar**'s show, whose set worked perfectly in a club concert setting.

It was **The Fire that Burns** which kicked off the show - a fantastic composition filled with atmospheric passages, featuring live vocals from three band members. Even though the concert opener set the bar high for the next songs, what followed was just as impressive and professional.

Both the songs from the band's previous albums, such as **Winter Thrice**, and earlier works alike sounded massive, including older tracks which masterfully combined viking/pagan metal with black metal – such as **The Ruins of Future** or the final **Colossus**, which ended the Norwegian's show in the best way imaginable.

Soon enough, it got pretty hot inside the venue, both literally and figuratively. The atmosphere was getting more and more lively with each moment and the amount of people made the space quite stuffy. Still, it didn't ruin the mood, especially when **Insomnium** took over the stage.

Enthusiastic reactions after **Insomnium**'s entrance were just a matter of time - the fans were gathering more and more eagerly as clapping and chanting followed. It goes without saying that the first headliner has many fans in Germany - the frontman **Niilo Sevänen** even welcomed the audience in the local language, which was met with even louder applause.

There is no doubt that the band deserves all the praise not just for their professional attitude and outstanding contact with the audience, but also for a diverse setlist. From the energetic **Ephemeral**, the artists moved on to the darker **Valediction** from their latest full-length and consequently made sure to present different sides of their musical works.

With that in mind, the band has introduced their audience to songs tracing as far back as more than fifteen years ago, such as the heavy-hitting **Mortal Share**, without forgetting the newest material from the phenomenal **Heart Like a Grave**, released in 2019.

The Finns delivered a tight set to their local supporters and their hour-long show was first-class entertainment. The title track from their latest full-length couldn't be missed on that night, just as the awe-inspiring **And Bells They Toll**, a song both dark and emotional, partially sung in clean vocals. More grim and monumental sounds made it into the setlist as well, with **Pale Morning Star** and **The**

Primeval Dark being perfect examples here. There was no doubt that the crowd was having a great time, just like the members of **Insomnium** themselves – the artists could be seen smiling and exchanging comments about the lively, devoted audience. It wasn't surprising to see the mosh pit getting bigger, and the fans of Finnish melodic death metal had nothing to complain about after such a great show.

The crowd which was just as large was there to see **Moonspell**. The concert-goers swarmed around the stage and the first rows were packed when the band played in Hamburg after a nearly three-year long break. Even though the first song presented by the Portuguese was **The Greater Good**, soon enough the artists moved on to their classic, well-known releases with timeless **Mephisto** and the irreplaceable **Opium**, both from their iconic album **Irreligious**.

Even though assembling a setlist from such a vast discography is no easy task, the band handled it just perfectly. They surely deserve applause for adding **Finisterra** to their set and playing the track filled with tempo changes and dark elegance, hailing from their underrated album **Memorial**.

The following songs were met with just as much applause, which was more than understandable when the album in question was a full-length released nearly twenty years ago, **The Antidote. In and Above Men** powerfully echoed through the venue, just as **From Lowering Skies** electrified the club, encouraging the listeners to clap and tirelessly throw horns in the direction of the stage.

The night went on and when the vocalist **Fernando Ribeiro** announced the last two songs, one could hardly believe the concert was about to end so soon. Fortunately, the band made sure to include **Alma Mater** and **Full Moon Madness** in the grand finale - the monumental sound and epic chorus of the former one, together with the heaviness and masterful composition of the latter (just think about this guitar solo!) always work and don't cease to impress.

With the onstage energy provided by **Hinayana**, **Wolfheart**'s hymns straight from the North and the melodic, yet intense set from **Borknagar**, the evening was more than sure to start in style. Together with **Insomnium**, whose heart-gripping works were emotional in one moment only to transform into faster, heavier bangers in the next second, and the phenomenal, diverse setlist from **Moonspell**, the night was sure to satisfy everyone who attended. We're left with the hope that a tour as great as this one will make its way through Europe soon!