

## **Review: "Princess Of The Dark" by TIGERSCLAW**

### **TIGERSCLAW**

Melodic Power Metal from Germany - TIGERSCLAW

#### **The band**

TIGERSCLAW describe themselves as an extraordinary constellation in their bandinfo, which refers less to the music than much more to the staffing. On the one hand there is a multi-instrumentalist (Alexander Baier), who met a longtime musical companion and drummer of the band Antares (Ralf Neumann). In addition, he came across the Russian soprano and concert pianist Elena Minina in search of a suitable singer. Despite this considerable geographical distance, the band founded in 2016 succeeded in recording an album in a respectable time. For this purpose, the instruments were recorded in a German recording studio, the singing in a Moscow recording studio. The mastering then ran again in Germany.

#### **The album**

PRINCESS OF THE DARK is starting powerful and fast, right from the beginning. Whether it's the opener WORLD OF THE DEAD, the title track PRINCESS OF THE DARK, or STORM OF STEEL ... the band's music is impressive with this mixture of hard-hitting guitar riffs and a melodically-worn and perfectly set vocals of the voice-of- Russia-finalist. TWILIGHT OF THE GODS gives at least a moment of rest before this song takes up again, but still does not lose its slightly balladesque touch.

In the same style, TIGERSCLAW also created LIKE AN ANGEL, who succeeded in transferring to ETERNITY. Here a piano harmonizes wonderfully and perfectly with Elena's singing in a wonderful ballad. Thankfully, the band has already decoupled this single, so you can see it here with a pleasantly minimalistic video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ov10YYjX7D8>

With PHANTASIA the dreaming ends, because an epic guitar solo will prepare you for the next successful song. The soprano shows very well that she is not only able to sing classical style very impressively, but also can sing poppy, because the style is changed several times in the song. All in all the electric guitar in PHANTASIA is allowed to orchestrate and play extensively and very impressively. ETERNAL FLAME and SCREAMS are one of the quieter and melancholic pieces on PRINCES OF THE DARK, followed by one of my favorites: REVELATION. Here I hear the first time directly and prominently the support from the synthesizer, which gives the song a certain drama. Along with the tempo and the melodic vocals, the song flows into it and makes this song to a candidate for an endless loop in the player.

The song with probably the greatest surprise potential is doubtless CHEROKEE. Why? You have to listen to it yourself: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACiLV0CgaP0>

The last two songs of the album are SHE RIDES THE LIGHTNING and DIVINE. The first reminiscent of Within Temptation, or Epica, follows the conceptually consistent concept of the album: a sustaining, flowing melody and dominant guitar sounds. Skillful TIGERSCLAW orchestrates a two-minute-long intro of orchestral elements, drums, and again dominant

guitars, on the upcoming end of the album. Now two minutes sound quite a lot, but this is immediately relativized again with a Song length of almost seven and a half minutes. DIVINE is stylistically a successful review of the album PRINCESS OF THE DARK and at the same time a very worthy last track.

## **Conclusion**

PRINCESS OF THE DARK needs not to hide from anything or from anyone. The band TIGERSCLAW presents here a really very impressive debut, which is really packed with tonal facets, but without being overloaded. The three musicians clearly point out that epic guitar solos, but also the professionally trained singing, can equally influence and complement each other beautifully. The mixture of the album with the very tempo-charged and then also moderate, stage-wise almost balladesk-like songs is in itself completely coherent and for my taste very well succeeded.

A compliment to the Russian soprano, ELENA MINIMA has managed to inspire me with its versatility. The classical vocal parts are perfectly articulated and very emotional. It is not difficult to feel what the Moscow woman tries to convey.

Since I do not give stars or points in a review ... I find PRINCESS OF THE DARK really very successful and can recommend this album for all lovers of the Melodic Metal (or it still want to be ...).

PRINCESS OF THE DARK will be released on 14.07.2017