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ZÉRAK

– this name stands for progressive metal like a force of nature. The songs by the six southern German musicians push genre boundaries and create impressive, punchy soundscapes. The band’s sound captivates with virtuoso guitars, supported by warm fretless bass and driving, yet delicate drums. Atmospheric keyboards round off the sonic imagery. The exceptional voice of American singer Alison Zick binds together the complex compositions with catchy lines and emotional lyrics.

The band grounds on the longstanding musical collaboration of guitarists Chris Frank and Uwe Saussele. Together, they wrote their first tracks in 2017, shaped by numerous influences from progressive rock and metal to jazz and classical music. Other experienced musicians joined shortly after with bass player Steffen Singler and drummer Christopher Carapetyan; keyboard player Christian Wick followed in 2018. On Hammond organ, piano and mellotron, he provides the music’s characteristic vintage sound. Frontwoman Alison Zick completes the lineup, her voice making Zérak’s tracks a unique sonic experience. For Zérak, she leaves the roots of her classical vocal training and taps the full potential of her registers – from calm, solemn passages and hymnal, polyphonic singing to powerful, intensive parts.

The band is about to release its first EP “Serac”. An almost classical use of motifs characterizes the disc’s sophisticated arrangements, along with complex harmonics, walls of hard guitar and contrasting lyrical episodes. This debut is entirely self-produced and recordings were made in several locations including churches to capture vocals and instruments at their most natural. The musicians also widely eschewed the use of samples and instead relied on the authentic sounds of historic pianos, violins, analogue synthesizers and Hammond organ.

The EP’s centre piece is the song “Serac”, a track of nearly 20 minutes, exploring the band’s entire musical spectrum. The track opens with a jazzy, playful intro whose motifs develop into a major emotional arc of suspense that leads to a furious climax, before the song ends with a soaring, hymn-like coda.



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