

# MANTICORA BIO 2021

MANTICORA was formed in 1997 by Lars Larsen (vocals), Kristian Larsen (guitars) and Mads Volf (drums). In the early days the band was a foursome with bass player Rene as the last member – the young guys laying the foundation of the MANTICORA-trademark sound; hard hitting progressive power metal with both epic and thrash elements.

In 1998 MANTICORA signed with Intramental Management and shortly afterwards their first record deal was signed with Greek record label Black Lotus. The same year the band added an extra guitarist, and a keyboardist, to the line-up. The debut full-length disc, “Roots Of Eternity”, was released in summer 1999, and received tremendously good response from both media and fans around the world.

2000 saw the band signing with Scarlet Records, and half a year later the next opus, “Darkness With Tales To Tell”, was released, once again receiving great acclaim. In 2001 bassist Rene decided to leave the band and the vacancy was filled by Kasper Gram as the new bass pounder. Also the guitar spot was changed, as Flemming left MANTICORA and Martin Arendal joined the band.

In the fall 2002 “Hyperion” was released. This was the so-far most wide-spanning work of the band; an epic concept album, based on the award winning sci-fi novel “Hyperion” by Dan Simmons. The album was whole-heartedly embraced by fans and media worldwide, and with a European tour in the spring 2003 MANTICORA took another step up the ladder.

In early 2004 the band began working on and releasing their next disc, “8 Deadly Sins”, yet another conceptual one. The album was recorded in Jailhouse Studios with producer Tommy Hansen (Helloween, Pretty Maids, etc.). In February 2005 the band toured throughout Europe together with Angra and Edenbridge. The band then did their first ever (highly successful) US appearance at the **ProgPower Festival** in Atlanta, GA.

The band once again went into studio in 2006, to record their 5th full-length album, the first part of the 2-album concept “The Black Circus”. Once again produced by Tommy Hansen, the album was bigger, better and more adventurous than ever before. After a mini-European tour, alongside Andromeda, MANTICORA hit Jailhouse Studio to finalize the 2nd part of “The Black Circus”. With the new album in their now extended catalogue, MANTICORA went on both European and USA tours, as support for Jon Oliva’s Pain, and another tour was booked for Europe in May 2009, as support act for Circle II Circle. This time, going through 16 countries for 21 shows.

In 2010 MANTICORA’s 7th full length album was released worldwide. “Safe” was an even darker journey in the musical universe of MANTICORA. A European headliner tour was booked for October 2010, taking the band through nine different countries.

In August 2012, MANTICORA finally performed at the world’s largest metal festival – **Wacken Open Air**, and it lead to the band, re-opening the goodie-bag of writing new material. April 2013, saw the band, playing the prestigious PPM festival in Belgium, and a month later, Martin played his last show with MANTICORA. Stefan Johansson – who appeared as session musician on the 2005 Angra tour, was enrolled as a new guitarist.

After another European headliner tour in 2014, Mads decided to leave the drum-throne, to pursue other musical endeavors, and MANTICORA spent 4 years, writing a grandiose double concept album, based on the 334 page novel, that leadsinger Lars wrote in the meantime.

In August 2018, MANTICORA released their so far most ambitious work, the 8th full length album “To Kill To Live To Kill”, produced by Jacob Hansen to secure an aggressive and modern sound. The band’s 334 page novel was released at the same time.

2018 and 2019 were spent, touring the world (Europe, North America, Japan) and saw the band appearing for the first time ever in countries, like Canada, Japan, Mexico and Norway. Manticora played a load of festivals - among them, **Wacken Open Air**, **Copenhell** and **Evoken Fest** in Japan.

The drums on the last album and the new one have been recorded by the Swedish drum-wizz Lawrence Dinamarca, who has brought an immense amount of technical aspects into the music of MANTICORA and Lawrence decided in May 2020 that he'd be a part of the line-up of the band, making the band a complete 5-piece, as it was always meant to be.

MANTICORA released the second part of the grandiose concept, this one entitled "To Live To Kill To Live" on August 28<sup>th</sup> 2020, as a perfect follow-up to the 2018 album. The horror story is concluded and once again, Jacob Hansen worked wonders on the production, as well as David Troest, creating a stunning piece of artwork for the album and the whole booklet.

A European tour was booked for the spring of 2021, but pandemic struck and the tour is being pushed to May/June 2022, where Europe will once again feel the full effect of a live-Manticorization!

**Line-up:**

Kristian Larsen - guitars  
Lars F. Larsen - vocals  
Stefan Johansson - guitars  
Kasper Gram - bass  
Lawrence Dinamarca - drums

**Discography:**

Roots Of Eternity (1999)  
Darkness With Tales To Tell (2001)  
Hyperion (2002)  
8 Deadly Sins (2004)  
The Black Circus - part 1 (2006)  
The Black Circus - part 2 (2007)  
Safe (2010)  
To Kill To Live To Kill (2018)  
To Live To Kill To Live (2020)

**Bibliography:**

To Kill To Live To Kill (2018)

**Manticora online:**

[www.manticora.dk](http://www.manticora.dk)  
[www.facebook.com/manticoraband](https://www.facebook.com/manticoraband)  
[www.instagram.com/manticoraband](https://www.instagram.com/manticoraband)

**Manticora Video links:**

"Echoes Of A Silent Scream" (2018 video from the album "To Kill To Live To Kill")  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhqZtxtqAoQ&list=RDYhqZtxtqAoQ&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhqZtxtqAoQ&list=RDYhqZtxtqAoQ&start_radio=1)

"Eaten By The Beasts" (2020 video from the album "To Live To Kill To Live")

[https://youtu.be/Nrpm\\_xoPylc](https://youtu.be/Nrpm_xoPylc)

**Manticora Labels:**

ViciSolum Records

**Manticora Publishing:**

Enorm Music GmbH

**Manticora Endorsements:**

Engl Amplifiers - Sandberg Strings - Evans Drumheads - Pro-Mark Sticks – Meinl Cymbals – Solar Guitars