

MASSACRE RECORDS

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ALBUM TITLE: VIRGIN BLACK – Requiem-Mezzo Forte

FORMAT: CD, lim. Digipak + Bonus-CD

LABEL: Massacre Records

CAT. NUMBER: MAS-CD 0551

RUNNING TIME: 60:48 minutes

MUSIC STYLE: Gothic Rock/Metal

HOMECOUNTRY: Australia

BARCODE: 4028466105516

RELEASE DATE: 13.04.2007



Line-Up:

Rowan London: vocals, piano, songwriter

Samantha Escarbe: guitar, songwriter

Grayh: bass, vocals

Luke Faz: Drums

FACTS:

- The new album by the Australian Goth sensation VIRGIN BLACK
- Available as strictly limited Digipak including bonus CD with unreleased tracks!
- Unique conceptual album with complete symphonic orchestra
- Outstanding crossover potential for both goth and metal fans plus listeners of DEAD CAN DANCE or SIGUR ROS
- Extensive marketing campaign in April/Mai 2007
- European tour following album release in May, June and July 2007
- Festival appearances a.o. Wave Gotik Treffen 2007
- Tremendous press feedback for previous albums

BIOGRAPHY:

Traditionally, a requiem is performed as a funeral rite, and is a composition associated with the expression of grief and mourning. Positioning themselves as part of this ongoing musical tradition, Virgin Black have composed a work of mournful splendour. On Requiem, the experience of sorrow and anguish is transmuted into genuine emotional insight. This is music characterised by an emotional abandonment so intense it effects a transcendence-through-suffering; deeply harrowing yet utterly revelatory.

Virgin Black's 2001 debut, *Sombre Romantic*, was heralded as a landmark opus of operatic dark metal. It was a meticulously crafted album in which principal songwriters Rowan London and Samantha Escarbe combined the intensity and aggression of extreme metal elements with a beauty and elegance inspired by classical composition. It's 2003 follow-up, *Elegant...and Dying*, was an album of even greater sophistication and complexity. With its startling white artwork and its deceptively open, accessible song writing, *Elegant...* seemed, at first, to be more uplifting and less anguished than its sometimes frenzied and eclectic predecessor, but the gentle exterior masked a vehement outpouring of grief and fragility.

Virgin Black's latest venture, *Requiem*, promises to be the most challenging and spectacular of its career. In this groundbreaking endeavour, London and Escarbe have composed and produced three albums simultaneously. Each album is a stand-alone work and will be released separately, but the three albums are also fundamentally interconnected, each linked through recurring musical themes and motifs.

The first album of the series, *Requiem—Pianissimo*, exudes a tragic melancholy. Inspired by the traditions of the Romantic era of classical composition, *Pianissimo* is an entirely classical album featuring magnificent orchestral and choral arrangements, along with tenor, mezzo-soprano and soprano solo voices. All scores were composed by London and Escarbe, and performed by the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. The second of the series, *Requiem—Mezzo Forte*, further develops the classical and operatic influences within a more identifiably 'metal' framework. Combining traditional metal instrumentation with rich orchestral arrangements, *Mezzo Forte* captures the dramatic, dark melodic sensibility that Virgin Black fans have come to love and respect. The final album of the series, *Requiem—Fortissimo*, is a fierce statement of grief, and the band's heaviest work yet. Combining the brutality of death/doom with an unmistakable sophistication and majesty, *Fortissimo* concludes the series with a display of greater savagery and abandon.

When the complete series is played end-to-end, listeners will be treated to an evolving soundscape of increasing intensity. With a total duration of over two and a half hours, *Requiem* is a unique sonic experience. A masterpiece of solemn grandeur from a band at the forefront of musical innovation.