

# TESSERACT

There are albums to listen to and bands to watch perform but only an elite few musical collectives manifest creative work that must be *experienced*. Ascending to the forefront of the progressive hard rock and metal community through creative fearlessness and determination, **Tesseract** invite listeners on an expansive, esoteric, and atmospheric journey, constructing unique and immersive worlds within their music, all of it drenched in swirling layers of sound, distinctive melodies, and unapologetic experimentation.

What Tesseract has achieved with *Polaris*, released by their new UK label home Kscope, is nothing short of total liberation in an otherwise rigid genre. Many progressive metal bands will claim creative independence but in fact adhere to the same “rules” as anyone else. Much the way Tool, Deftones, and Radiohead created signature atmospheric fingerprints while reinvigorating their sound with each new album’s broadened horizons, Tesseract’s evolution is one of perpetual motion. The journey is itself the destination and the albums are the vehicles.

Unburdened by genre restrictions, emboldened by an embrace of melody, dynamics and singular focus, Tesseract delivers a bold statement of purpose with *Polaris*. Tesseract founder Acle Kahney (lead guitar), longtime collaborators Jay Postones (drums), Amos Williams (bass, backing vocals), and James Monteith (guitar), and returning vocalist Daniel Tompkins (whose first show back was on the mainstage at the U.K.’s Sonisphere) have honed in on the most exciting elements of their now trademarked sound. Dense, destructive, reconstructive, and forward-thinking, *Polaris* delivers on the promises made with the fierce *One* and the even more progressive *Altered State*.

Storytelling with both lyricism and musicianship, Tesseract’s compositions are dense with meaning and urgent with something to say, literally and figuratively. The straightforward and boldly accessible “Seven Names” is alternately poetic, while the *Alice in Wonderland* like “Utopia” is almost melodramatic and theatrical. “Hexes” will appeal to those weaned on Classic Rock, even as Tompkins’ enrapturing tones interplay with the Jeff Buckley style croon of critically acclaimed guest vocalist Martin Grech. “Cages” is among the band’s most progressive songs, a musical attack on creative expectations even as the lyrics (like “Messenger”) deconstruct social conditioning.

The diverse array of spacious warmth, controlled chaos, and earnest atmosphere on display in Tesseract’s music hints at an ambitious future more in line with legendary cultural mile-markers like Pink Floyd, Yes,

Genesis, and Porcupine Tree. Made in England just like their modern likeminded descendants in Tesseract, these are bands that blazed a trail for newcomers endeavoring to establish a formidable body of work.

The band's two full-length albums and as many EPs established the U.K. act among the creative leadership of a subgenre flourishing beneath the shadow of the mighty Meshuggah; a progressive metal subset pushed forward evolutionarily by Tesseract and their contemporaries in bands like Periphery, Animals As Leaders, and Textures.

Radiohead's *OK Computer*, Metallica's *Master of Puppets*, Iron Maiden's *The Number of the Beast*, U2's *War*, Bruce Springsteen's *Born to Run*, The Smashing Pumpkins' *Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness* – these are records that took the idea of the “difficult third album” and smashed it to bits, etching a crucial and timeless moment in stone for each respective artist. While Tesseract have no pretensions about what history may or may not decide about their contributions, they are in one-hundred percent control of their creative trajectory and cement a bold identity with their own album three, *POLARIS*.

Tesseract has arrived at the highly coveted destination of true creative freedom through bold artistic risk-taking, which has resulted in a loyal audience who are not only comfortable with being challenged by each successive release, but demand to be. A new Tesseract recording is a gift to unwrap, a puzzle to solve, an adventure that beckons.