

# Aesma daeva

The aria from the controversial Mozart opera *Idomeneo* will make its "rock" debut in San Fran on October 15. North America's only symphonic heavy metal band, Aesma Daeva, is scheduled to perform the aria with heavy-metal guitars, violins, drums and a real opera-trained singer on Monday at Slims Club.

*Idomeneo* was the subject of Christian and Moslem protests with the Berlin staging of the opera, which used religious prophets instead of the pagan gods Mozart originally used in the opera.

The band's version of Elettra's aria (featuring vocalist Lori Lewis) is one of the many out-of-the-ordinary musical experiences Aesma Daeva treats their audience to. While the aria remains true to Mozart's music and opera's native language (Italian), the audience will find themselves rocking to the intense musical drama played out for them onstage.

And the rocking won't stop: The band will perform songs from their new album, *The New Athens*, which was produced in Chicago by Grammy Award-winning producer Neil Kernon (who's worked with Hall & Oates and Queensryche).

The band's founder, John Prassas, has devoted his musical energy to combining classical music with heavy metal—the result being an original type of music called symphonic rock. His first record signing was in 1999 with Accession Records in Germany. After being invited to play wave gothic in Germany, Prassas decided it was time to take the band from recording-project status to full-time band. Since then, Aesma Daeva has shared the stage with Nightwish, Kamelot, and Therion.

This fall, Aesma Daeva will again tour with Therion throughout the United States and Canada. The band plays at the Slims Monday Oct 15<sup>th</sup>.

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