

<u>Sinisthra</u>, with the sun behind their backs and welcoming smiles on their faces, beckon you to come closer and listen for awhile. Yes it's metal and yes it's from Finland but it's not as simple as that. The sound has been in existence from the year 2000, always quite heavy and always quite melancholic, and often with strong shades of 70's prog with lesser shades of 90's grunge.

The band released one album on 2005, called <u>"Last Of The Stories Of Long Past Glories"</u> to favourable reviews and got labelled "gothic metal", somewhat misleadingly, but as the singer Tomi Joutsen joined Amorphis, his career skyrocketed and Sinisthra's didn't, so due to lack of time from his part, things slowed down. A lot.

Now Sinisthra has finally completed their second album and are looking for someone to release it. The heavier parts are heavier, and it's all a lot proggier than before, as is apparent in this 13+ minutes showcase song called "Closely Guarded Distance". A small nod towards radio-friendliness may be present in a song called "Eterne". There's also a calmer Mellotron- driven effort called "Halfway To Somewhere Else". To make it reek even more of the 70's, it's a bloody concept album as well with six interwoven tracks.

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Markku Mäkinen guitar Janne Telén bass

Marko Välimäki guitar **Erkki Virta** drums

Timo Vainio keyboards

Tomi Joutsen vocals