



Artist: **Metsatöll & The Estonian National Male Choir**

Title: **Curse Upon Iron**

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Booklet translated: **English**

**Westpark**  
MUSIC

## **METSATÖLL & THE ESTONIAN NATIONAL MALE CHOIR**

# “Curse Upon Iron”

What happens when Estonian ethnic metal band Metsatöll, internationally acclaimed composer Veljo Tormis (ECM and Alba Records) and Grammy awarded Estonian National Male Choir get together? That becomes “Curse Upon Iron” – a massive live spectacle as well as an album & DVD.

**CURSE UPON IRON** is undoubtedly one of the better known works in Estonian choral music. Already in its original form, it contains all the primary characteristics of this particular project: shamanic chants, rhymes borrowed from Kalevala, the primeval power of runo-singing. To this we add some increasingly popular ethno-rockers and the 54 trained voices of the Grammy Awarded only full-time professional male choir in the world. The works of the world-renowned composer emeritus Veljo Tormis and those of Metsatöll are manipulated without prejudice by Tauno Aints, whose background is revealed by the names of his bands – Speculative Rokenroll Band and Genialisted. However, the young man also has a cum laude in the field of composition, so both sides of the music are treated equally and are fused into a whole. Metsatöll becomes grand choral music, Veljo Tormis turns into rock.

**Veljo Tormis’** music has to be regarded in much broader context than only Estonian. His works are connected to the whole intellectual heritage of Finno-Ugrian peoples including the Estonians and ethnic minorities (the Karelians, the Livonians, the Vepsians and others) in peril of disappearance as well as major nationalities like the Hungarians and the Finns. - In many cases, Tormis’ choral works are much closer to symphonic scores than traditional choir music. His works may be described as suggestive symphonies for voices.

**Metsatöll** was founded in late 1990s. The heavy metal of the early years has turned into a coarse ethnic metal, the guitar riffs are now interlaced with the sounds of bagpipes and kanteles. It has been argued that Metsatöll is the lifebelt of Estonian national self-awareness. Through the efforts of Lauri Õunapuu, who has been organising voluntary folk-singing workshops for years, Metsatöll has been actively preserving the Estonian folk singing tradition among both the elderly and the young.

**Lauri Õunapuu** – guitar, vocal, estonian bagpipe, kanteles, whistles

**Markus Teeäär** – vocal, guitar // **Raivo Piirsalu** – bass, vocal

**Marko Atso** – drums, vocal // **Guest: Vambola Krigul** – percussion

**Lauri** plays the following traditional instruments in Metsatöll:

Seven-stringed kantele: the six-to-seven stringed kantele is one of the oldest traditional Estonian instruments. The seven-stringed kantele with bourdon strings was more

prevalent in southern and southeastern Estonia. This instrument was crafted by Lauri Õunapuu in 2002.

Eleven-stringed electric kantele: crafted by Lauri Õunapuu in 2004 specifically for Metsatöll.

Folk-kantele: a type of kantele common in late 19th and early 20th century. Crafted by an unknown Võru craftsman in early 20th century.

Estonian torupill (bagpipe): a folk instrument which has been popular in Estonia for centuries, it was almost forgotten due to the appearance of accordions during the 19th century, but nowadays is again regarded with great esteem. The instrument has been crafted by the most famous of Estonian torupill-craftsmen, Ants Taul.

**ESTONIAN NATIONAL MALE CHOIR (RAM)** is currently the only full time professional male choir in the world. The choir was established in 1944 by Estonian choral legend Gustav Ernesaks. The large works RAM has sung most often are Shostakovich's Symphony No. 13 "Babi Jar" (with the Detroit, Tampere and Jerusalem symphony orchestras and the LA Philharmonic), Sibelius' Kullervo-Symphony (the Stockholm Royal SO, Minnesota SO, Tampere SO, Toulouse National SO, Hamburg City Orchestra and the LA Philharmonic), Cherubini's Requiem and Stravinsky's Oedipus Rex. Paavo Järvi, Estonian National Symphony Orchestra, Ellerhein Girls' Choir and Ants Soots, Estonian National Male Choir's CD "Sibelius Cantatas" (Virgin Classics, 2003) won the Grammy 2004 award in category "Best Choral Performance".

**One summer night in 2006, history was made in Estonia, and with this CD and DVD you can enjoy it all again.**

Westpark Music 87144

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CD + DVD-Video Disc

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**CD**

- 01 03:04 Intro / Veresulaste koor / Choir of Bloodservants
- 02 05:32 Merepojad / Sons of the Sea
- 03 02:58 Meeste laul / Men's Song
- 04 02:21 Saaremaa vägimees / The Giant-Hero of Ösel
- 05 05:07 Pikse litaania / Litany to Thunder
- 06 03:37 Teomehe-laul / Serf's Song
- 07 07:33 Hiiekoda / My Sacred Grove
- 08 06:12 Hundiraev / Wolfrage
- 09 03:36 Pärismaalase lauluke / An Aboriginal Song
- 10 06:59 Kaitse, Jumal, sõja eest / God, Protect Us from War
- 11 04:50 Oma laulu ei leia ma üles / I Cannot Find My Song
- 12 02:57 Lahinguväljal näeme, raisk! / See You on the Battlefield, Damn!
- 13 06:17 Metsaviha 2 / Woodwrath 2
- 14 05:15 Raua needmine / Curse Upon Iron
- 15 06:38 Ussiõnad / Charm Against Snakes

CD Total: 73:00

**Additional tracks on Video-DVD**

- Türgi Sõja Laul / Song of the Turkish War
- Põhjatuu Pojad Ja Tütred / Sons and Daughters of Northern Winds
- Kust Tunnen Kodu / How Can I Recognize My Home

DVD Total: 97:21  
Plus: Making of .... 21:31

English Translations incl. in Booklet

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Disc Format DVD-9  
Audio PCM Stereo / 5.1 Dolby  
Languages Estonian / English  
Classification: E Exempt

Freigegeben  
als  
Musikwerk  
gemäß § 14  
Absatz  
PKK

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DVD  
VIDEO