

# THWART

Secil Sen - Vocals

Benjamin Knecht - Guitar

Alexander Hagemann - Guitar

Dominik Budziak - Bass

Philipp Reif - Drums

**THWART** began their journey with career expectations aiming to fill a niche in melodic thrash metal and share their passion for extreme music with metal fans all around the world. THWART trades in modern metal with a distinct thrash-death character that nonetheless stays on the melodic side without leaving one of the most important aspects of their music in general behind - the groove. Despite their short history in the industry, THWART managed to build a fan base from various nations across continents, including Germany as the start point, the US and also Far East, as THWART's passion, energy and love for music can be felt even at the first encounter with their music.

*Metal Hammer* reviewed the band's debut album "Once Human" describing its sound as "between the chairs of symphonic metal bands like Epica or classic modern thrash bands, thus achieving a kind of consensus sound between those poles.", which indicates THWART's whereabouts among metal subgenres. *Legacy* also mentioned in their review that "they have probably discovered something like a gap in the market" emphasizing the originality of THWART's sound.

Creativity of THWART emerges from integrating the sounds of various metal bands of their taste into their cultural backgrounds. Merging together the brutality of Arch Enemy, groovy and melodic character of Trivium, the energy of Testament and fusing them all into band members' individual styles and giving birth to something that involves all of these in one makes THWART differ from others. Their 2018 LP was a brilliant introductory precursor that shows what THWART can achieve in a short time with their will to create and makes curious about their next releases expecting a dynamic, passionate and groovy sound.

On their debut album, "Once Human", the Berlin quintet hit their creative stride with 12 masterpieces of diverse skills. Metalheads in favor of the melodic and brutal sound of Arch Enemy, groovy thrash sound of Sylosis and Trivium and the sonic magnificence of Testament will definitely find something intriguing and particular within THWART. Thanks to *Jaro Sound*, who mixed many metal albums including Gojira's, "Once Human" started collecting virtual high fives from all over the world right after the release because of its high quality of production.

THWART skillfully merges groovy thrash death sound into passionately melodic patterns, as evidenced in their song "Apocalypse", for which their first music video was shot.

Although Lacuna Coil and Suicide Silence are two different poles vocally, frontwoman Secil Sen's lyrics and performance draw from the melodic intensity of Cristina Scabbia and the evil, violent and high pitched extreme vocals of Eddie Hermida, integrating them into her influence of black metal as remnant of her teenage years, Angela Gossow of ex-Arch Enemy as remnant of her death metal fandom, and her own emotional, passionate and clear sound reminiscing from time to time Ann Wilson of Heart and Doro Pesch, without neglecting her own cultural memory of vocal styles. With the founder and guitarist Benjamin Knecht's deep and powerful growls, which hold the similar energy to that of CJ McMahon of Thy Art is Murder and Andreas Dörner of Caliban, THWART completes a diverse set of vocal skills. THWART boldly confronts feelings of hate, anger, passion or suppression and maintains a relatable nature focusing on both individual and social problems.

Even though band members are not known for their previous bands, they realised themselves as THWART finally, forming the best line-up for a remarkable entrance to the music industry. Benjamin Knecht, the founder, guitarist and composer of the band, comes up with many great compositions and ideas suddenly, which gives the band unexpected work load or challenges, while keeping his humble attitude. Alexander Hagemann, the other guitarist, is the one who unblocks creative minds with his cultivation of inspiration and ideas, besides his organisational skills. Drummer Philipp Reif is a studied mathematician who has a spectacular timing control and rhythmic vocabulary, which he integrates into his personal energy control in every track. Bassist Dominik Budziak offers a variety of ideas from simple to very complex and creative fundamentals, defining the low end of the band and advocating the heaviness within THWART. Their music is not only heavy, energetic and fun, but also deep and emotional, just like the band members in their private lives.

The highly energetic track "Borders" draws from the singer's life experience, which also defines the band's perspective of existence, using the phrase "kill your borders in your mind". Beginning with a sonic viciousness as in black metal, the track "Violent Self" focuses more on the difference between being a human and being humane, while the track "Parasite" is a groovy rebellion against toxic people and a demonstration of fearlessness.

Combining thrash metal and death metal, splattering a few core elements around, sometimes feeding off other genres and cultural differences and still staying on the melodic side, THWART has already headed towards becoming a distinctive, timeless band in the metal scene. THWART is made of passion, anger, hate, melancholy and embodied in uncompromising grooves, heavy riffs and glorious melodies.