Hallowed take a look at the year that past by writing the semi-traditional last day of the year text. So lets see what we thought on the last of December 2018...

UNIVERSE ST OF AYREON LIVE Once again Ayreon holds the top spot in the best of the year list...

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PUBLISHED ON: 2019-01-05

oday 2018 comes to an end and in a few hours another

many other places of the world. In Brazil an idiot was elected president, the Swedish election the rating of seven so maybe not led to nothing and several months later there is still no clear government. And the same is true and in a few hours another government. And the same is true in many other parts of the world can always call it an ending and a as well Trump keeps acting like fresh start – or not, it depends on a moron so it is good that I write how you look at things. So lets do about music and not about the album "Chasing the Sun" always the yearly text, this year I am not state of things in the world even riding a train and that is a good though things are improving thing for the writing I think. 2018 overall even in a year like 2018. was a year when we got to see So what about the music of 2018? more of people's stupidity here Was it worth taking notice of? Of Ayreon material performed on

at home in Sweden but also in the 278 reviews I wrote during 2018 there were three albums with a rating of six and none with the most noticeable year in music so far.

> hris Bay did his damnedest to make 2018 a happier year and listening to his solo makes me slightly happier. And then the great Dutchman Arjen put out a new live album and video with some of the best

the stage with great musicians, and did you know that he will be performing live again next Lurk, Prince Obi, my favourite year so congratulations to all who scored tickets to the shows that seem to be sold out now. The Vega to name just a few examples. last of the six pointers was the There were a little fewer albums ever-consistent W.E.T. that put out another magnificent album but more two-pointers than six called "Earthrage", an album that probably could rival their there were some surprises like the excellent effort "Rise Up" that Yacht Club and the new album was awarded the highest score by Temperance, Lurk was also a some years ago. Then there were great surprise, there were some some other memorable efforts more but these were probably the throughout the year with Kino, most noticeable.

Galactic Empire, Crystal Ball, Devin Townsend, Temperance, Rockford Heroes, Somali Yacht Club, Stagma, Temperance, and that was rated below average pointers. The good thing is that

n the Hallowed front there Was a bit less content uns year than last year with fewer reviews and articles, last year's chronicle will disappear from the latest window when this article is published some of the first days of 2019. There are some reasons for the lesser content but nothing important, perhaps 2019 will yield more content - or less, only time will tell. So what are the interesting things of 2019, the new Dream Theater album can be interesting, the Ayreon shows in September, I am still waiting

Major Parkinson from Norway made it to the top ten spot with their album Blackbox.

I ordered long ago. I hope for a more interesting year than this latest one, a year with more fun and less depressing things. And it would be great with some excellent new albums as well, so lets see what the year has on offer and hopefully welcome a better and less depressing year than this one that is about to end. But

for that super special edition of I guess political sanity and sanity artists and promotion agencies "Into the Electric Castle" that amongst the public is too much to who send us material to write hope for so let's hope for a great year in music, movies and other things that I happen to enjoy and then the rest can be forgotten. And it would be great to forget 2018 as well.

to thank all you labels, and servers, hopefully you have

about and trying to set us up for interviews and other things - even if we don't always enjoy your stuff it is always appreciated and we like to get the chance to hear your music. And another big thanks goes out to readers and **f** course we here at other supporters who checks out Hallowed would also like what comes out of our computers

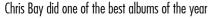
received some enjoyment out of catch up with but some of those the world as I think this year has what we wrote this year and I hope albums will still be written about. to be writing better this coming And please remember to not like year. Right now I don't really know what will be coming from seems to be updated. my pen and keys in the coming year but hopefully it will be an improvement on what has been written before. And there will be several 2018 albums reviewed can conclude that the year wasn't in the first months of 2019 as I the best, not for myself, not for have this impossible backlog to

us on the social media that never

The efore I get to the top albums of 2018 and albums of 2018 and welcome the new year I the music, and probably not for

Somali Yacht Club released The Sea and that album was on the top list.

probably been a step back for an ever-improving world - the same will probably be true about 2019 as well but positive things happen, Trump might die, Putin and some other dictator and dictator wannabees might as well and be replaced by more sensible people. The musical year can probably not be much worse than this one so I think we can hope





for a better year to come with wasn't really released in 2018 but band Kino with this excellent some excellent music, snappy and witty writing and some version was released this year it 3. Chris Bay - Chasing the Sun... other great things. And please let is eligible for this list. Marvel and their annoying crap movies go bankrupt so that the Whenever Eldritch release a new movie theatres won't be cluttered album it is a challenger for the with poor superhero movies and that crap. And before we end this one is no exception. short end of the year text with a top ten list I just want to wish all of you a happy new year.

The best albums of 2018

Machine - Live at The Ancient Roman Theatre Plovdiv... A really strong live album by the great Devin Townsend makes the tenth spot on this list.

really strong AOR album by the strong band Vega.



as I reviewed it then and the vinyl 7. Eldritch – Cracksleep... and exciting, I think Lurk from massive album. 5. Somali Yacht Club – The Sea... 10. Devin Townsend Project - Ocean The Yacht Club released a new

think. John Mitchell doesn't disappoint this is by some margin, the best 8. Major Parkinson - Blackbox... when he reinvigorates his old album of 2018.

album and rereleased their album The Sun in 2018 and they are both really impressive, top albums I

album.

The Freedom Call vocalist always amuses and his music tends to put a smile on the face of whoever listens to it. He has put together top list of the year and their new a warm and sunny album with some excellent songs for all of us, 6. Lurk – Fringe... great, dark don't miss tracks like Hollywood Dancer.

Finland has put together a 2. W.E.T. - Earthrage... These guys always does well and their new album is no exception, it is an excellent display of great melodic hardrock music with excellent songs you want to hear many times over.

1. Ayreon - Universe - The Best of 4. Kino - Radio Voltaire... It is Ayreon Live... It is difficult to beat 9. Vega - Only Human... another more difficult to rate the places a long list of the great songs that outside the top three but the great Ayreon has in its history. I think