

## AGATHODAIMON

### *The Seven*

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#### Slogan EN: German Dark Metal outfit AGATHODAIMON rejoin forces

Rejoining forces after many years of silence, German dark metal frontrunners **AGATHODAIMON** set the stage for their long-awaited comeback – the bittersweet seventh studio album, *The Seven*, out March 18, 2022 via Napalm Records. Formed in 1995 and entering the scene with their debut, *Blacken the Angel*, in 1998, the five-piece has made an undisputable name for themselves ever since. Yet after six albums, many festival appearances and tours, bandleader Sathonys was temporarily forced to put **AGATHODAIMON** on hold in 2014 due to private circumstances. But the irrevocable fire of the band and their fans never went out, seeking a reawakening of this sonic, seething beast. Now, the gates of darkness have opened once again to reveal extreme soundscapes amid a captivating mélange of evil provoking, cutting dark metal and heroic symphonic black metal in the style of bands like Cradle of Filth and Carach Angren, but with a unique and very own multifaceted take.

**AGATHODAIMON**'s seventh strike maintains the old-school spirit of its predecessor *In Darkness* (2013), but can't be pigeonholed due to its dynamic and widespread musical styles, evoking a gloomy atmosphere fueled by sharp growls, epic clear vocals and a gripping, exceptional sonic universe. Thematically, as hinted by the album's title, the full-length is centered around the momentous and symbolically powerful number seven and the seven deadly sins - sloth, greed, lust, gluttony, pride, wrath, envy - on ten tracks total, all addressed with religious topics that contrast with human beings and its original nature. Diving into this exciting construct with opener "*La Haine*", the track lures the listener into the freezing, dark world of **AGATHODAIMON**, produced by long-time companion Kristian "Kohle" Bonifer (**Aborted**, **Powerwolf**, **Hämatom** amongst others), by building up a dense wall of thunderous sound, accented by a multifaceted vocal interpretation. Songs like raging "*Wolf Within*" and haunting "*In my Dreams*" roam between dense soundscapes, crushing instrumentals and intense lyricism. "*Kyrie / Gloria*" on the other hand stomps more towards heavy doom metal, calling for a black mass with creeping darkness and desperate screams turning into harsh black metal parts, all topped by the guest appearance of **Benighted** frontman Julien Truchan. Amid the tracklisting there's another special treat for fans lurking with epochal orchestration that paves the way for the remarkable performance of **AGATHODAIMON**'s former vocalist, Romanian Vlad Dracul, on "*Mother of all Gods*". It's not only this very first collaboration since 1999, but *The Seven* as a whole, that showcases that **AGATHODAIMON** absolutely acing the balancing act of incorporating their past into a bright and exciting future.