

HOLLOWMIND

The essence of feelings captured by the power of heavy metal and the musical sensitivity of progressive rock.

The history of Hollowmind, a Brazilian band based in São Paulo, dates back to the year of 1993. At that time, bassist and singer Roberto Gutierrez and guitarist Alexandre Silveira were together in a band in Alphaville (uptown neighborhood in the greater São Paulo area) covering songs from their favorite bands. In that same year, already working under the Hollowmind name, the band members started writing their own material. After playing several local festivals, the band was a highlight in the *Conexão Underground* compilation, along with several other bands from that time.



In 1996, Hollowmind was disbanded. However, in the years that followed, Gutierrez kept writing songs for Hollowmind, while still participating in other side projects. Gutierrez managed to re-establish the band only in 2002, along with drummer Mauricio Magaldi (former member of VersOver and Widow) and guitar player André Hemi. One year later, however, both left Hollowmind, bringing Silveira back to the band.

Silveira supported Gutierrez in giving final shape to ten of his songs, and both decided to finally get into the studio for the definitive recording sessions of their first album, *Soundscape of Emotions*, released in 2007. As the title itself suggests, the album was conceived as a soundtrack for the simplest to the deepest feelings of the human being. Introspection, hopelessness, affection and anguish are some of these feelings, which are creatively highlighted by the subtitles supplementing each track title. "The general idea of using subtitles comes from a desire to bring the attention of the listener to the lyrics, aspect that has been missing quite a lot in metal music lately", says frontman Gutierrez.

Produced by Udo Stramm and mastered at the Creative Studios, the album carries a good balance of the power and energy of heavy metal and the musical sensitivity and emotion commonly found in progressive rock songs. Some of the tracks worth a special mention include the speedy and heavy *Beyond the Distance (The Song of Confidence)* and the beautiful *Shallow Room (The Song of Introspection)*. The praised album artwork was done by Gustavo Sazes, also responsible for covers of Krisiun, Almah and Dr. Sin. Former member Kadu Averbach (Wizards), on 12-string acoustic guitar, and José Cardillo (Eterna), on keyboards, joined the band as special guests for this album. *Soundscape of Emotions* was released by Die Hard Records, one of the most respected heavy metal labels in Brazil.

Soon after the album came out, the current line-up was completed with drummer **Felipe Gomes**. By bringing in a blend of influences that range from metal and progressive to jazz and funk, Gomes added new style features to Hollowmind's music, stepping up the band's cohesion. To celebrate the new line-up and their *debut*, a release event was carried out by the band at a packed Blackmore Rock Bar, one of the most traditional spots for metal music in São Paulo. Distinguished guests Pit Passarell (Viper) and Nando Fernandes (former member of Hangar) joined them onstage, as well as producer Stramm. The setlist, based on the album songs, was supplemented with creative versions of songs from some of the band's influences, such as Iron Maiden, Rush, Megadeth and The Police.

Throughout 2008, the album was praised with excellent reviews by the specialized press, which highlighted the international quality of their work. The band could witness a remarkable growth on their audience, and an exclusive fan club called *Shallow Room* (www.shallow-room.com.br) was conceived as a tribute to the band. On top of all that, readers of one of the most important Brazilian heavy metal magazines (*Roadie Crew*) pointed Hollowmind as one of the top five new acts in the Brazilian metal scene. Gutierrez states in few words the band's general feeling: "It's an honor and a huge responsibility. We hope we'll be able to always meet our fans expectations".

Hollowmind's agenda for 2009 includes moving on with promotional concerts for *Soundscape of Emotions*, as well as starting writing material for their next album.