

WARDRUNA ANNOUNCE FIRST PART OF EXTENSIVE WORLD TOUR

Following Wardruna's release of the single *Hertan*, the band announces the first part of an extensive world tour in 2024 and 2025. This tour sees Wardruna perform in selected venues and theaters across Europe, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Norway and more. These include performances at prominent venues such as Royal Albert Hall in London and the Oslo Opera House.

The announcement includes their only US date in 2024 at the iconic Red Rocks Amphitheatre in Colorado, featuring Chelsea Wolfe as special guest. Wardruna will also make their long-awaited and first ever appearances in Australia, New Zealand and Latin America. The full list of shows can be found below.

Einar Selvik says about the world tour: "It is always a special feeling to plan and announce a new tour. This time, perhaps more so than usual due to the fact that we are visiting quite a few parts of the world where we have yet not performed with Wardruna. We greatly look forward to revisit familiar faces and places with our songs, as well as the chance to make new bonds in new lands."

Tickets go on sale on Friday, April 12, 10 AM CET at www.wardruna.com.

On April 5, Wardruna released a new song *Hertan*, alongside a music video. The track explores duality of the heart with the rhythm, flow and pulse one can see, hear, and feel in nature and in all forms of life. It also dives into the more abstract idea of the heart as the rudder on the ship of emotions, our decisions, and our true desires. The music video was shot with Finnish director and photographer Tuukka Koski, who also created the video for *Raido*, *Voluspá*, and *Grá*

ABOUT WARDRUNA

"*Hertan*", the proto-Scandinavian word for heart, is steeped in Wardruna tradition. With this new song, Wardruna announce the beginning of a vibrant new cycle, pulsating with life. The song explores the rhythm of pulse, a flow visible in all forms of life and in nature, and the heart as the rider of decisions.

Making room for something new to come into being, the Norwegian group ends the *Kvittravn* touring cycle in a remarkable way. During the autumn equinox on September 21, 2023, Wardruna

performed at the world heritage site Odeon of Herodes Atticus, Acropolis, Athens. The event sold out quickly, with fans from all over the world attending.

The concert at the Acropolis is the culmination of an intense period of touring, with successful shows in the United States, Norway, Iceland and the United Kingdom. In 2022, Wardruna headlined the festivals Wacken Open Air in Germany and Hellfest Open Air in France and saw the group perform at historic sites, such as Ancient Theater in Plovdiv and Castle Devin, Bratislava during the Nordic Night Tour. In 2023, the second leg of the *Kvittravn* touring cycle took place throughout the summer with Wardruna playing (festival)

shows in Germany, France, The Netherlands and a concert at Borgholm Castle in Sweden.

At the heart of Wardruna lies the vision of *sowing new seeds and strengthening old roots*, a concept that main composer Einar Selvik, Lindy-Fay Hella and former member Gaahl brought to life in 2009. The first three albums formed the Runaljod trilogy and featured musical renditions based on the Nordic runes. Each of the three releases focused around eight of the twenty-four Proto-Norse runes, more commonly known as the Elder Futhark. The trilogy consists of *Runaljod – gap var Ginnunga* (2009), *Runaljod – Yggdrasil* (2013), *Runaljod – Ragnarok* (2016).

After years of acoustic concerts and lectures, performing Wardruna songs and creations made for the TV-show Vikings, Einar Selvik recorded *Skald* (2018). The album was recorded live with the intention of capturing the raw and uncompromising energy of the live performance. It set out to give a voice to the ancient craft that once lay at the foundation of the Norse oral traditions, presented as it takes shape in the hands of a humble contemporary skald today.

Wardruna's fifth full-length *Kvittravn* (White-Raven) was released in January 2021. The album musically continues where the Runaljod trilogy left off, yet it marks a distinct evolution in the group's sound. Throughout eleven songs, *Kvittravn* discusses Northern sorcery, spirit-animals, shadows, nature and animism, the wisdom and meanings of certain myths, various Norse spiritual concepts, and the relation between sage and songs. The record charted in 13 countries, including #1 in Canada and Austria, and #2 in Germany. A year later, the band presented a virtual live experience in the form of *First Flight of the White Raven*, also landing in the official German Album Charts.

The period between *First Flight of the White Raven* and "*Hertan*", is not without creative output. A new rendition of "*Voluspá*" (live with the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra) came out in June 2023. Einar Selvik also performed on national Norwegian television with electronic dance music DJ Matoma and joined Faroese singer-songwriter Eivør and the Danish National Symphony Orchestra for a symphonic concert series. One of the duets, "*Voluspá*" (live with Eivør) shall be released physically on Record Store Day in April 2024, in the United States, Canada and Germany.

Now a new cycle begins with "*Hertan*", seeing Wardruna embark on an extensive world tour this year, in support of this new release.