A Crack In The Sky
A TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM J TSAMIS

All songs written by William J Tsamis,
except track 10 written by William J Tsamis/Mark Zonder.
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Mark Zonder is managed by Giles Lavery Management

Warlord would like to thank Phivos, Pitch Black Records
and all of the dedicated bands that put forth the effort to honor the music of Bill Tsamis aka Destroyer.

As everyone knows Bill's music touched many people and had a profound influence on generations of guitar players and more importantly song writers.

I remember it like it was yesterday the first time I met Bill some 40 years ago. Life was never the same for me after that. Unlike a lot of people, he knew exactly what he wanted, how to get there and more importantly would not stop until he accomplished his goals. I never heard him play a bad note or write a mediocre song.

Bill Tsamis was the true definition of what happens when God given pure talent meets imagination.
Hope everyone enjoys this, the definitive tribute record and know that Warlord and Bill Tsamis will live on.

Mark Zonder

"I just want to thank everyone in the world who has ever listened to Warlord and has appreciated the music – when I hear from you and read your letters and messages it makes my heart glad that we have been able to share something from our hearts with you all. I am the most fortunate person I could ever dream of becoming when I know that you are all out there with your t-shirts, tattoos, jackets, artwork, pins, and all kinds of other things that commemorate the music of Warlord, and I know Mark feels the same way. You listen to the songs over and over, you share the music with your friends, you sit down with your instruments and you try and learn how to play the songs of Warlord. What tribute more than all of this can any human being ask for. I am honored beyond the expression of human language.

I will certainly tell you this: Not a day goes by when I don't think about all of you, and when I am composing with my guitar or keyboards, you are in the deepest recesses of my heart composing along with me. I truly feel a very deep interconnection and brotherhood with all of the Warlord fans. Many of you send me letters of thanks. Well, it shouldn't be that way at all. It should be "me" sending letters of thanks to "you" for listening to the music of Warlord. Since I cannot do that, please accept my "music" as a gift to you for all of your gracious and kind words."

-William J. Tsamis, March 2012

MIRROR - Aliens

William J Tsamis and particularly his guitar playing and music, was something extraordinary. It would make you travel back to the age of the early Baroque and sometimes classical era, with a twist here and there to the Greek music. His work was and is a major influence for us, as you will see, or better hear, at the upcoming album, especially at the guitar solos.

The reason we chose this song has to do with the local bar we used to go to (Rocka Rolla), where every time Aliens was playing, there was a mess with the shot glasses that were broken during the mid-part. After a certain point DJs would not play Aliens if there were any shot glasses around, as every time we would smash them. May your music accompany us till the end.

Line-up:
Jimmy Mavromatis - Vocals
Tas Danazoglou - Bass
Nikolas 'Sprits' Moutafis - Guitars
Constantinos - Guitars
Daniel Georgiou – Drums

Web: facebook.com/mirrorheavymetal

Recorded at:
Guitar & Bass - Steel Fortress Studios
Drums - Danny's Little Studio
Vocals - Play on 10 Studios
Produced/Mixed & Mastered by: Nikolas 'Sprits' Moutafis
Additional Mastering by: Arthur Rizk

SUMERLANDS - Lost and Lonely Days

Lost And Lonely Days is absolutely one of my favourite songs. I believe objectively speaking that it should be in some kind of textbook counted amongst the greatest songs ever written. The first time I heard the song I listened to it maybe 8 times in a row. Layers of synth and guitar weaving between each other in a way that keeps your ears completely starved for more. While it is progressive by nature, it comes off as so simple and catchy. William J Tsamis composed a fusion of melancholy heavy metal with heavy traditional Mediterranean music through his filter.

Every composition on all of his records had this type of formula even with classical and renaissance. To me personally, I felt weaponised to write my own music after the realization that most of his music was inspired by non-metal origin and I took so much from that. His work meant the world to me and I wish more than anything he could hear these testaments to his genius. Hail William J Tsamis! Hail Warlord! Hail Lordian Winds! Hail Lordian Guard. -Arthur Rizk

Line-up:
Brendan Radigan- Vocals
Arthur Rizk – Guitars/Synth
John Powers - Guitars
Brad Raub - Bass
Justin DeTore -Drums

Web: sumerlands.bandcamp.com

Recorded at: Salomon's Gate Studio
Produced/Mixed & Mastered by: Arthur Rizk

STRAY GODS - War in Heaven

Bill Tsamis' music was always something very special for me. Even his "unsung hero story" was always there to prove to me that you don't have to become a superstar to be "immortal" but you just need to touch the hearts of people.

And this can be done with a divine melody, like Bill's. I chose this song 'cause I always thought it was a song that needed to be heard properly and let its melodies and power shine, and I think as a band we managed to give it that extra weight that was missing. -Bob Katsionis

Line-up:
Artur Almeida – Vocals
Bob Katsionis - Guitars & Keyboards
Gus Macricostas – Bass
Thanos Pappas – Drums

Web: facebook.com/StrayGods666

Recorded at: Sound Symmetry Studio
Produced & Mixed by: Bob Katsionis
Mastered by: Nasos Nomikos
Additional Mastering by: Arthur Rizk

TWISTED TOWER DIRE - Mrs. Victoria

I first heard Bill Tsamis' music in my early 20's. Then, my guitar mentors were: Rhoads, Page and Maiden. I revered composition coupled with wanton noodling, dexteritical 'athleticism', and the myriad tonal landscapes the guitar affords. This tribute is a gesture of gratitude and celebration of Bill's life; the preface explains where I was when Warlord rocked my world. Bill did ALL the things I revere about guitar with HIS guitar. When a band has the 'atmospheric conditions' of a guitarist highly adept at melody, phrasing, and possessed of some intrinsic sense around 'popish' structure, you get a beautifully rare storm. Such was the force 'Warlord'. Bill was a special guy. I cannot distill it or articulate it more eloquently. He was touched by something - something ineffable and magical. I didn't know Bill personally but I believe you can know someone through music. In a parallel universe his songs could have been massively commercially successful. They were on the level with any of the 'song writing' greats. We chose 'Mrs. Victoria' because of its uber-metal chorus, its guitarwork-showcasing, and because I felt we could do justice to the tale told within about the occult's relation to mental illness. Thank you for including us. To Bill: Thank you for sharing your music, you're greatly loved by many. -Scott Waldrop

Line-up:
Scott Waldrop - Guitar & Keyboards
Dave Boyd - Guitar
Marc Stauffer - Drums
Jonny Aune - Vocals
Jim Hunter – Bass

Web: facebook.com/TwistedTowerDire

Recorded at: MCR Studios
Produced/Mixed by: Matt Crooks
Mastered by: Arthur Rizk

CLAYMOREAN - 70,000 Sorrows

Whether you're a casual or a passionate metalhead, you must have heard of Warlord or/and Bill Tsamis at some point. Even though his life ended way too soon, his legacy is undeniably one of the truest in the history of the genre.

At first we wanted to do a cover of any of Bill's songs that came out during the glorious 80's, but considering our Balkan and Orthodox heritage and our epic metal background, we decided to go with "70,000 Sorrows". The musicianship and the emotion of the original song are unmatched, so we didn't want to stray far from it and experiment. We tried to honor it the best way we could and played it true to its roots.

Line-up:
Dejana Garčević – Vocals
Vladimir Garčević – Guitar
Uroš Kovačević – Guitar
Vladimir Novaković – Guitar
Goran Garčević – Bass
Marko Novaković - Drums

Web: facebook.com/claymorean

Recorded at: Midnight Studio
Produced/Mixed by: Boris Šurlan
Mastered by: Arthur Rizk

ETERNAL CHAMPION - Stygian Passage

My introduction to Tsamis' music was finding a worn-out copy of "Deliver Us" in a used record bin and bought on sight of the artwork and Warlord logo. Though I didn't know what to expect, the combination of tight, heavy rhythms with a classical sense of melody and epic scope compelled me to play the album nonstop for weeks.

Later I discovered the Lordian Winds/Lordian Guard material and Arthur and I really connected with that. Ultimately, we chose Stygian Passage because the song's ethereal quality is nicely balanced with a dark sense of awe and drama - "I see Immortality cease In my course." Rest In Peace to William "Destroyer" Tsamis, one of the greatest guitarists and songwriters of all time.
-Jason Tarpey

Line-up:
Jason Tarpey – Vocals
Arthur Rizk – Guitar/Synth/Drums
John Powers – Guitar
Brad Raub – Bass

Web: eternalchampion.bandcamp.com

Recorded at: Salomon's Gate Studio
Produced/Mixed & Mastered by: Arthur Rizk

ARRAYAN PATH - The Rainbow
(feat. Paolo Viani)

Bill Tsamis was the greatest composer in lyrical rock/metal music. This is his legacy and he deserves every bit of respect and recognition in this metal micro-cosmos we are all a part of. But most of all he was a good man and friend. Always ready to listen, always eager to help... Always boosting your confidence and providing wings for you to fly. Those 2 weeks of touring with Bill and the other guys was one of the best periods of my musical career and something I will cherish forever.

I chose this song because it portrays and mirrors his state of mind and is the perfect example of a lyrical ballad coming straight from Bill's labyrinth of thoughts. The vocal melodies are trademark William Tsamis. The beautiful clean guitars are a reflection of Bill's soul and character. This is who Bill was. A giant among men! -Nicholas Leptos

Line-up:
Nicholas Leptos – Vocals
Paolo Viani - All Guitars
Miguel Trapezaris – Bass
Stefan Dittrich – Drums

Web: facebook.com/arrayanpath

Recorded at: Take Away Studios
Produced/Mixed & Mastered by: Slava Selin
Additional Mastering by: Arthur Rizk

FORSAKEN - Lucifer's Hammer

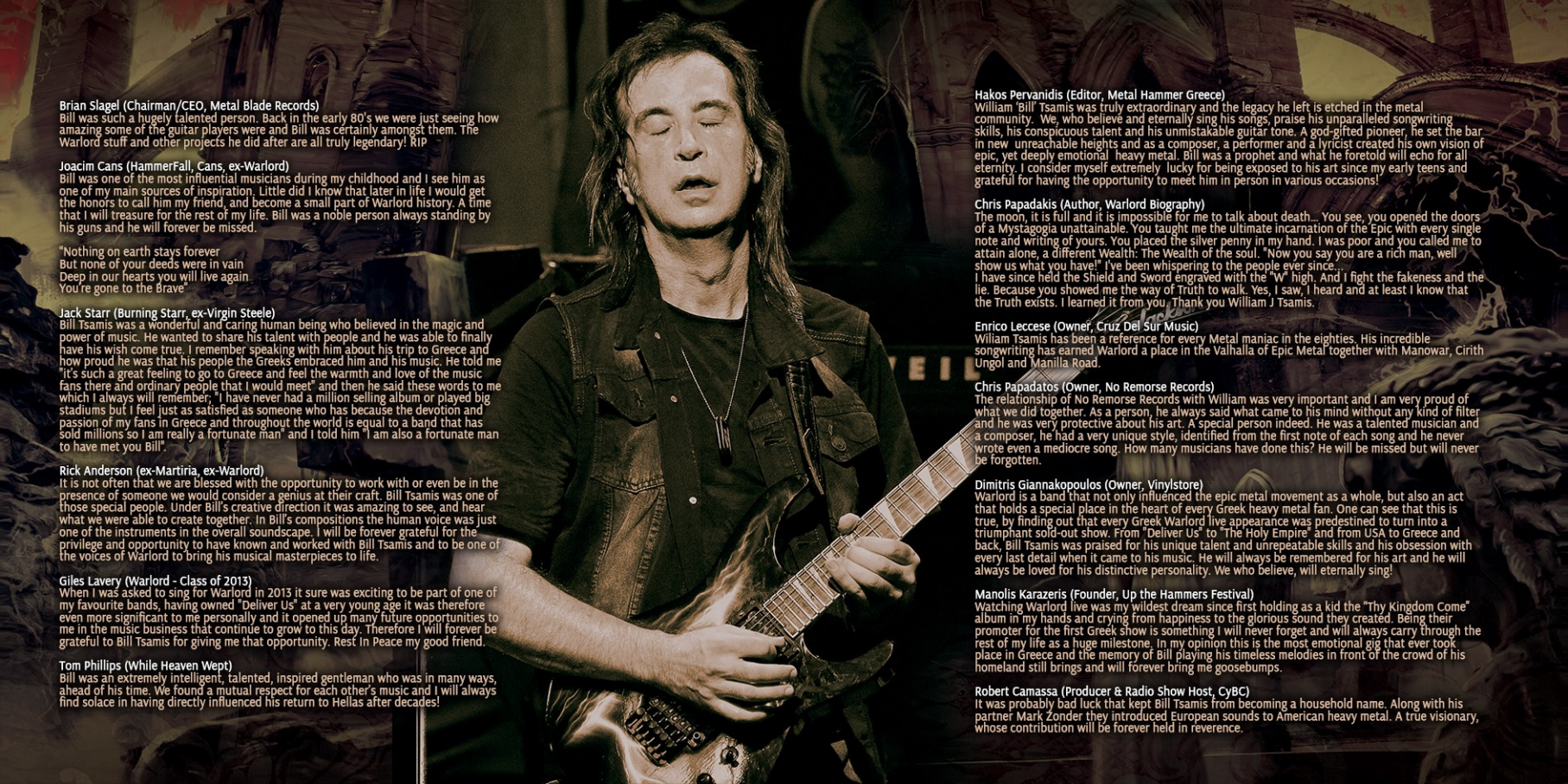
William J Tsamis has been, and still is a very inspirational and influential musician and guitar player. He is defined as a strong reference point to all bands delving into the melodic side of heavy metal especially to the Progressive Power Epic Metal Genre. His penchant for exceptional double guitar harmonisations and memorable solos are second to none and send shivers down everyone's spine, not leaving out the awesome sense of grandiose song writing, including some of the greatest Epic Metal riffs ever written.

It was a bit difficult for us to choose between a Warlord or a Lordian Guard song to cover but we agreed on Lucifer's Hammer because we consider it as one of the heaviest Warlord tracks and fits perfectly to our style. We did our best to stay faithful to the original track and at the same time still retain the Forsaken identity throughout the whole track.
HAILS TO THE DESTROYER and Blessings to All! -Leo Stivala

Line-up:
Leo Stivala – Vocals
Sean Vukovic – Guitars & Narration
Albert Bell – Bass
Simeon Gatt – Drums

Web: forsakenmalta.com

Recorded at:
Vocals & Guitars - Vukoville Studio
Bass & Drums - Hell Next Door Studio
Produced/Mixed & Mastered by: Sean Vukovic
Additional Mastering by: Arthur Rizk



Brian Slagel (Chairman/CEO, Metal Blade Records)
Bill was such a hugely talented person. Back in the early 80's we were just seeing how amazing some of the guitar players were and Bill was certainly amongst them. The Warlord stuff and other projects he did after are all truly legendary! RIP

Joacim Cans (HammerFall, Cans, ex-Warlord)
Bill was one of the most influential musicians during my childhood and I see him as one of my main sources of inspiration. Little did I know that later in life I would get the honors to call him my friend, and become a small part of Warlord history. A time that I will treasure for the rest of my life. Bill was a noble person always standing by his guns and he will forever be missed.

"Nothing on earth stays forever
But none of your deeds were in vain
Deep in our hearts you will live again
You're gone to the Brave"

Jack Starr (Burning Starr, ex-Virgin Steele)
Bill Tsamis was a wonderful and caring human being who believed in the magic and power of music. He wanted to share his talent with people and he was able to finally have his wish come true. I remember speaking with him about his trip to Greece and how proud he was that his people the Greeks embraced him and his music. He told me "it's such a great feeling to go to Greece and feel the warmth and love of the music fans there and ordinary people that I would meet" and then he said these words to me which I always will remember, "I have never had a million selling album or played big stadiums but I feel just as satisfied as someone who has because the devotion and passion of my fans in Greece and throughout the world is equal to a band that has sold millions so I am really a fortunate man" and I told him "I am also a fortunate man to have met you Bill".

Rick Anderson (ex-Martiria, ex-Warlord)
It is not often that we are blessed with the opportunity to work with or even be in the presence of someone we would consider a genius at their craft. Bill Tsamis was one of those special people. Under Bill's creative direction it was amazing to see, and hear what we were able to create together. In Bill's compositions the human voice was just one of the instruments in the overall soundscape. I will be forever grateful for the privilege and opportunity to have known and worked with Bill Tsamis and to be one of the voices of Warlord to bring his musical masterpieces to life.

Giles Lavery (Warlord - Class of 2013)
When I was asked to sing for Warlord in 2013 it sure was exciting to be part of one of my favourite bands, having owned "Deliver Us" at a very young age it was therefore even more significant to me personally and it opened up many future opportunities to me in the music business that continue to grow to this day. Therefore I will forever be grateful to Bill Tsamis for giving me that opportunity. Rest In Peace my good friend.

Tom Phillips (While Heaven Wept)
Bill was an extremely intelligent, talented, inspired gentleman who was in many ways, ahead of his time. We found a mutual respect for each other's music and I will always find solace in having directly influenced his return to Hellas after decades!

Hakos Pervanidis (Editor, Metal Hammer Greece)
William 'Bill' Tsamis was truly extraordinary and the legacy he left is etched in the metal community. We, who believe and eternally sing his songs, praise his unparalleled songwriting skills, his conspicuous talent and his unmistakable guitar tone. A god-gifted pioneer, he set the bar in new unreachable heights and as a composer, a performer and a lyricist created his own vision of epic, yet deeply emotional heavy metal. Bill was a prophet and what he foretold will echo for all eternity. I consider myself extremely lucky for being exposed to his art since my early teens and grateful for having the opportunity to meet him in person in various occasions!

Chris Papadakis (Author, Warlord Biography)
The moon, it is full and it is impossible for me to talk about death... You see, you opened the doors of a Mystagogia unattainable. You taught me the ultimate incarnation of the Epic with every single note and writing of yours. You placed the silver penny in my hand. I was poor and you called me to attain alone, a different Wealth: The Wealth of the soul. "Now you say you are a rich man, well show us what you have!" I've been whispering to the people ever since...
I have since held the Shield and Sword engraved with the "W" high. And I fight the fakeness and the lie. Because you showed me the way of Truth to walk. Yes, I saw, I heard and at least I know that the Truth exists. I learned it from you. Thank you William J Tsamis.

Enrico Leccese (Owner, Cruz Del Sur Music)
William Tsamis has been a reference for every Metal maniac in the eighties. His incredible songwriting has earned Warlord a place in the Valhalla of Epic Metal together with Manowar, Cirith Ungol and Manilla Road.

Chris Papadatos (Owner, No Remorse Records)
The relationship of No Remorse Records with William was very important and I am very proud of what we did together. As a person, he always said what came to his mind without any kind of filter and he was very protective about his art. A special person indeed. He was a talented musician and a composer, he had a very unique style, identified from the first note of each song and he never wrote even a mediocre song. How many musicians have done this? He will be missed but will never be forgotten.

Dimitris Giannakopoulos (Owner, Vinylstore)
Warlord is a band that not only influenced the epic metal movement as a whole, but also an act that holds a special place in the heart of every Greek heavy metal fan. One can see that this is true, by finding out that every Greek Warlord live appearance was predestined to turn into a triumphant sold-out show. From "Deliver Us" to "The Holy Empire" and from USA to Greece and back, Bill Tsamis was praised for his unique talent and unrepeatable skills and his obsession with every last detail when it came to his music. He will always be remembered for his art and he will always be loved for his distinctive personality. We who believe, will eternally sing!

Manolis Karazeris (Founder, Up the Hammers Festival)
Watching Warlord live was my wildest dream since first holding as a kid the "Thy Kingdom Come" album in my hands and crying from happiness to the glorious sound they created. Being their promoter for the first Greek show is something I will never forget and will always carry through the rest of my life as a huge milestone. In my opinion this is the most emotional gig that ever took place in Greece and the memory of Bill playing his timeless melodies in front of the crowd of his homeland still brings and will forever bring me goosebumps.

Robert Camassa (Producer & Radio Show Host, CyBC)
It was probably bad luck that kept Bill Tsamis from becoming a household name. Along with his partner Mark Zonder they introduced European sounds to American heavy metal. A true visionary, whose contribution will be forever held in reverence.

FIREWÖLFE - Battle of the Living Dead

The passing of Bill Tsamis was a big loss to the metal community. Bill was an amazing songwriter and guitarist who shined in a very unique way. His compositions had depth, melody, power and creativity.

He never followed the pack that other bands followed but instead chose to run his own race. We in FireWölfe are honored to present to you our rendition of the amazing Warlord/Lordian Guard classic "Battle of the Living Dead".

Line-up:
Nick Layton – Guitars
Michael David – Guitars
Freddy Krumins – Vocals
Bobby Ferkovich – Bass
Marco Bicca - Drums

Web: firewolfe.com

Recorded at: Wolfe's Den Studios
Produced/Mixed by: Paulo Albino
Mastered by: Arthur Rizk

STEEL SHOCK - Child of the Damned

It is undeniable that Bill Tsamis was one of the most unique guitarists and songwriters. His theatrical approach and enchanting tunes truly put a stamp on Epic Heavy Metal in general, but also influenced us in his own way. "Child of the Damned" was one of the songs that always came up when we considered having a cover song in our live set, even before Bill's passing. But we wanted to do it in a more raw and more aggressive way and so we rehearsed it in that way.

Having the chance to pay tribute to the master is something we could not refuse and we are honored to be able to pay our respects. We wanted to capture the live-vibe and the rawness of the "Shock-version" in the recording, and although nothing will live up to the original, we hope the Warlord himself will smile upon us.

Line-up:
MetalHeart – Vocals
Knight – Guitar
Schmerz – Guitar
Aerodyne – Bass
E.Klipse - Drums

Web: steelshock.bandcamp.com

Recorded at: Ally Music
Produced/Mixed by: Allard Folkers
Mastered by: Arthur Rizk

SOLITARY SABRED - Black Mass

Melody, musicianship, lyricism and atmosphere. Very few people have been able to combine all four elements with the craftsmanship of Bill Tsamis. The magic of his music has been deeply influential for countless bands, including Solitary Sabred.

While recording this cover we realised that the intro bears an uncanny similarity to a certain song from our debut EP (cough Hammers of Ulric cough), which we hadn't realised at the time! May the Lordian Angels keep Bill Tsamis safe in his heavenly travels.

Line-up:
Petros 'Asgardlord' Leptos – Vocals
Jimmy 'Spartacus' Demetriou – Guitars
Nikolas 'Sprits' Moutafis – Guitars
George 'Stainlesz' Papaioannou – Bass
Fotis Mountouris - Drums

Web: facebook.com/sabredmetal

Recorded at:
Vocals, Guitars, Bass & Synths - Steel Fortress Studios
Drums - Studio 35
Produced/Mixed & Mastered by: Nikolas 'Sprits' Moutafis
Additional Mastering by: Arthur Rizk

WOTAN - Winds of Thor

I discovered Warlord in the late 80s, it was simply a blast. Ultra-underground band but so epic! I really like the songs, with their unique and great melodies. I consider Bill a top composer. A great guitarist but most of all a very great composer, he put melodies and harmonies in your face. And so the songs are a great example of melodic epic metal. I also love Mark's drumming, in every song. Not only a rhythm part of the song... you could hear melodies in his drumming, and that is outstanding.

Warlord music has been a big influence for Wotan. We chose "Winds of Thor" because it is simply an amazing epic song, but there are so much to choose from in Warlord's discography!
-Mario Degiovanni

Line-up:
Mario Degiovanni – Guitar
Vanni Ceni – Vocals
Giorgio Alberti – Drums
Salvatore Ulivieri – Bass
Danilo Scalise (guest) - Keyboards

Web: facebook.com/WOTAN-Official-Page-110086789007741

Recorded at: Davide Colombo Studios
Produced/Mixed & Mastered by: Davide Colombo
Additional Mastering by: Arthur Rizk

REFLECTION - Winter Tears

For us, the music of William Tsamis is a seed. It was planted on the soft ground of our youth and ever since it grows strongly and cannot be unrooted. You may listen to the music of William Tsamis everywhere in the music of Reflection, in small phrases, but in long passages as well, especially when it comes to the "graver" parts of our music. It has this imposing feeling, like the figure of a gentle king standing in front of the gates of his stronghold, yielding his sword with confidence and calmness; a feeling that no other band could give.

We chose for this compilation a song that might not seem fitting to our style, but it is very dear to us. With "Winter Tears", a signature track of Tsamis' intelligence and sensitivity, we wanted to come even closer to his music and say farewell to his body, but definitely not to his spirit. "These Winter Tears, I'll cry for you until we meet again."

Line-up:
Stathis Pavlantis – Guitars
George Pavlantis – Drums
John Lintinakis – Bass
George Thomaidis – Vocals
Iraklis Loukakis – Keyboards

Web: facebook.com/reflectiongr

Recorded at: Dark Water Audio
Produced/Mixed by: Stathis Pavlantis
Mastered by: Arthur Rizk

GALAXY - Penny for a Poor Man

I came to know the music of Bill Tsamis through the "Deliver Us" record from Warlord. I relished the power of the music, though it was deceptively simple. I enjoyed the drama and grandiosity, though the themes were familiar and classic.

I especially appreciated the song writing prowess of Tsamis and the conviction with which his cohorts presented it. "Penny For A Poor Man" is an excellent example of this, and I hope Galaxy does justice to this great song and the great legacy of William J Tsamis. -Phillip T. King

Line-up:
Phillip T. King – Vocals & Keyboards
Stuart Callinan – Guitars & Bass
Max Kohane – Drums

Web: facebook.com/GalaxyAus

Recorded at: Sunroom Studios
Drums - Promitory Catacombs
Produced/Mixed by: Stuart Callinan
Mastered by: Arthur Rizk

COMET RIDER - Soliloquy

The work of Bill Tsamis has been a lifetime companion and eternal inspiration for me.

He was a giving person and our private conversations would always shed light, in times I struggled to get through realms of darkness while fighting my personal demons. His legacy will live on forever. -Paris Lambrou

Line-up:
Paris Lambrou – Bass & Rhythm Guitars
Mike Livas – Vocals
Andreas Josephides - Lead Guitars
Hugo Enrique Olivos - Drums

Web: facebook.com/cometriderband

Recorded at: Play on 10 Studios
Produced/Mixed & Mastered by: Paris Lambrou
Additional Mastering by: Arthur Rizk

SOCRATES LEPTOS
A Crack in the Sky (Outro)

From the chilling - and lasting - impression upon first listening of the atmospheric "Black Mass", to many futile attempts to detangle the dizzying intricacies of the riff from "Aliens", it seems that Bill Tsamis was always there... shaping, guiding and inspiring.

He had been a seminal force in the molding of my own, and myriad other musical identities. He is sorely missed. -Socrates Leptos

Line-up:
Socrates Leptos – Guitars & Keyboards

Web: facebook.com/socrates.leptos

Recorded at: SocLounge Recording Studio
Produced/Mixed by: Socrates Leptos
Mastered by: Arthur Rizk

ON A PERSONAL NOTE...

I could go on and on about Bill's music and how much it means to me or the influence it has had on me during the years but I feel like everything has already been said in these pages so I will just stick to some personal recollections, starting with the early 90s -

I have this vivid memory of being at a classmate's birthday party along with a few other fellow metalheads but we were sort of "side-lined" (as usual of course), sitting on the grass in some corner of a yard having our own boombox and blasting metal tunes (so obviously not being part of the main group of party goers). The one *cassette* we all agreed on playing over and over again was my copy of Warlord's "Deliver Us." The intro to "Deliver Us From Evil" was the sole reason I let my parents think later on that they had won the "battle" of whether or not I should start my guitar lessons with classical guitar first rather than electric (something I haven't regretted one bit of course).

Jump to a few years later and thanks to the magic of the Internet I managed to connect with Bill and one of the first things I was surprised to learn was that we shared the same birthday (with a few years apart obviously). We sometimes teasingly exchanged birthday wishes between us but what had really struck me was how approachable and down to earth he was; humble and eager to talk to you as he was interested in whatever it was you had to say. This was fast becoming quite the surreal experience for me: connecting with a childhood idol, speaking to him like a normal person, etc. Our discussions eventually led to me supplying him with physical copies of a variety of Pitch Black releases where my long-time friend and bandmate Nicholas Leptos performed, including my own band's album. When I finally met Bill in Athens in early 2013, he whispered to me (with an adorable grin on his face) as I handed a bunch of CDs over to him: "Trust me my friend, I will listen to them all very closely." And of course he did and later that year Bill would state that he had found "the ideal Damien King that we had been looking for since the inception of Warlord." This just couldn't get any more surreal for me, at least not until now that I had to undertake this highly important project... Yes, it is indeed funny how life works sometimes.

Finally being able to see Warlord live in Athens was a dream come true and it goes without saying that the tears of this "grown-up" were very hard to hide during that evening. One thing I know for sure is that Bill is not gone; he is very much alive and he will always be. This tribute album goes beyond simply honoring his legacy and celebrating it with his existing fans and those who knew him. It's also for younger generations (and generations to come) to hopefully discover someday his extraordinary music talent as well as the person he was by reading all the beautiful words that everyone has to say about him. Because, besides being an extraordinary musician, he was also exactly that: a beautiful human being.

Phivos Papadopoulos
Owner/Founder, Pitch Black Records

THANKS

First and foremost, my eternal thanks and gratitude for gifting us with his creations to the unsurpassed musical genius that is **William J Tsamis**. Also to **Mark Zonder** and **Giles Lavery** for entrusting me with this project and for their cooperation in seeing this through. **Arthur Rizk** for his enthusiasm about the whole thing right from the start and for providing his impeccable mastering services, my "partner-in-crime" for this project **Dimitris Giannakopoulos** of Vinylstore, my bud/classmate/best man and Diphtheria bandmate **Stavros Pamballis** for his input and advice, **Giannis Nakos** of Remedy Art Design for his amazing artwork and for being so incredibly pleasant to work with, **Chris Del Grande** for kindly providing some of his exceptional photography, **Johan Pettersson** for offering some of his special penning skills where needed, **Chris Papadakis** for the permission to reproduce Bill Tsamis' quote and everyone who has accepted my invitation to provide some words of their own. Last but not least a massive thanks to each and every single one of the awesome bands who answered my call to participate; I cannot thank you enough, not just for agreeing to be part of this but also for the superb job you all did!