

Ne Obliviscaris
Exul bio
By David E. Gehlke

Drum tracking for *Exul*, the fourth long-player from Australian extreme progressive metallers Ne Obliviscaris, started in March 2020. There is an ominous tone to that date: *March 2020*. The pandemic demarcation line. That month, Daniel Presland laid down his drums in Nashville, Tennessee, with American producer Mark Lewis. As flight cancellations increased and borders shuttered, Presland made it home literally hours before Australia closed theirs. Lewis, guitarist Benjamin Baret and bassist Martino Garattoni weren't as lucky. They were due to land in Australia in the days that followed to continue tracking, but were forced to remain overseas indefinitely. With recording studios shuttered throughout Melbourne, a slow, tedious, life-altering two-year grind to complete *Exul* ensued for Ne Obliviscaris.

Seven additional studios and three more countries later, *Exul* was finally mixed and mastered in July 2022.

The album personifies Ne Obliviscaris's distinctive, boundary-pushing ethos. The band's trademark blend of emotion and beauty is as towering as ever, if not even more compelling, particularly how Charles's violin lines carefully weave their way around Baret and fellow guitarist Matt Klavins' riffing. The duality of Charles's clean vocals and Xenoyr's growls remains the narrative anchor, elevating songs that emanate sophistication and are a masterclass in composition.

Touring will factor heavily into Ne Obliviscaris's 2023 plans. The band will embark on headlining tours worldwide that will hit new territories. As luck would have it, the return to live show activity will coincide with the release of *Exul* and the band's 20th anniversary. As one of Australia's leading extreme metal exports, there is a distinct sense of gratitude from Charles and his bandmates. They're looking forward to sharing it with fans when they resume touring.