

KARNIVOOL Sound Awake

[SIN]



EXPANSIVE SOUNDS: Hailing from Perth, Australia, Karnivool has been stirring up quite a storm in the band's native country for a few years now, and we should be thankful that they're now bringing their epic progressive sounds our way. The most commonly made sonic comparison is with Tool, and there are definitely some similarities in the tribal-esque rhythms and the ethereal, desperate vocals of Ian Kenny, but Karnivool is definitively their own beast and cannot be accused of trailing in anyone's wake. Perhaps the best way to describe *Sound Awake* is involved, every song a journey and unveiling new, fascinating, and compelling layers with every repeated listen. Karnivool certainly snags your interest straight away too, with the spacey but beefy crunch of "Simple Boy" and the insistent, immediately imposing and downright fucking fantastic "Goliath." Displaying smart songwriting suss and masterful musicianship throughout, they are equally as adept when dealing in short(ish) punchy tracks or sprawling epics that crawl up inside your head and carry you off to some far away place. At nearly 80 minutes in length, it's an album you have to really commit to in order to get the most from it, but this is by no means a bad investment, and the more you put in, the more you'll get out. ~ *Dan Slessor*