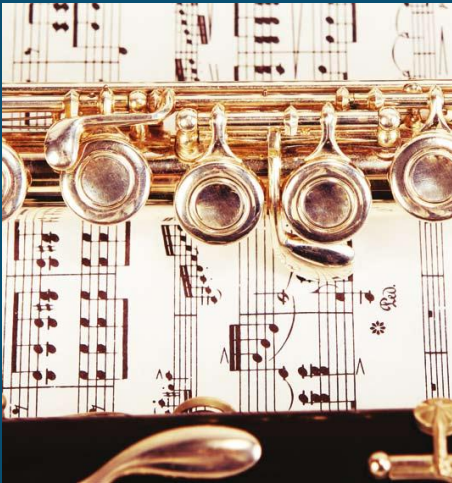




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HIM is a Finnish Band which is variously described as Goth Metal, Goth Rock or Alternative Metal or Heavy Metal. Their own description of their music is Love Metal, the title of one of their albums.

There has been a great deal of confusion about the name which was originally supposed to stand for His Infernal Majesty but this had to be dropped as Finnish people found it hard to pronounce and some people assumed that the group were in favour of a satanic association. Ville Valo, the lead singer and song writer has insisted that the band are about Love Metal and have come up with the Heartagram, as an emblem for their music.

The band have released a number of albums which have songs with religious titles and use religious language in their lyrics. HIM lyrics are all about love and death, the sacred and the profane, this life and eternity, the natural and the supernatural, God and the Devil, good and evil*. Valo reads a great deal to get inspiration for the musical journeys which take place in the albums. So the album *Venus Doom* has its roots in Dante, descending through the layers of hell and then coming back.

HIM are interested in spiritual issues and the difficulties of understanding life and death. For example, Ville Valo said about the track 'Kiss of Dawn' "One of my mates from here in L.A. committed suicide two and a half years ago, and that's a tribute to him. It's about how it is on the other side and how we react to it on this side. Just a young guy who had the world, everything is possible, but deep depression and too many drugs cause you

to do stupid things. So the subject matter is not light on the album. But it's good to get this out. It's cathartic."

- 'When Love and Death Embrace', *Greatest Lovesongs 666*
- 'Heaven Tonight', 'Resurrection', *Razorblade Romance*
- 'In Joy and Sorrow', *Deep Shadows and Brilliant Highlights*
- 'Beyond Redemption', 'The Sacrament', *Love Metal*
- 'The Face of God', 'In the Night Side of Eden', *Dark Light*

<http://www.heartagram.com/>

