

CEPHEIDAE VARIABLE

Artist Information Packet

Band Overview

Band Name: Cepheidae Variable

Location:

Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada

Stockholm, Sweden

Years Active:

2024–Present

Current Lineup:

Ryan Koepke

Guitar / Bass / Production / Mixing / Mastering / Arrangement

Chad Bernatchez

Vocals / Lyrics

History

2024

Cepheidae Variable formed as a progressive metal project founded by Ryan Koepke.

January 4, 2025

Writing begins for Primordial Reverie.

September 26, 2025

“Carving a Dragon” released as the debut single.

November 7, 2025

Primordial Reverie released independently as a fully instrumental concept album.

November 2025

Chad Bernatchez joins the project, initiating the transition toward a full vocal reimagining of the album.

May 27, 2026

Official announcement of Chad Bernatchez as vocalist and lyricist.

Discography

Primordial Reverie

2025 · Independent · Full-Length Album

Achievements & Recognition

- Featured by Prog Magazine, Rock Hard Italy, Metal Temple, Metal Utopia, Scream Magazine, and Melodic.net.
- Awarded Instrumental Progressive Metal Album of the Year 2025 by Metalpediamx.
- International collaboration spanning Canada and Sweden.
- Primordial Reverie Ascendant marks the evolution of the project from an instrumental solo work into a full collaborative band release featuring vocalist Chad Bernatchez.

Sound & Creative Direction

Cepheidae Variable blends progressive metal, cinematic orchestration, and immersive sound design into densely layered compositions driven by narrative and atmosphere.

Drawing influence from Haken, Dream Theater, Devin Townsend, Opeth, and Ayreon, the project balances technical musicianship with emotional depth and thematic storytelling. Orchestral passages, synth harmonies, expansive vocal arrangements, and evolving motifs are used to create dynamic, cinematic compositions that prioritize immersion over virtuosity for its own sake.

The project also draws inspiration from film scores, video game soundtracks, and science fiction worldbuilding, resulting in music that embraces both complexity and atmosphere as core elements of its identity.

Additional Notes

- The name Cepheidae Variable is a play on words. Ryan Koepke's wife stumbled across the term Cepheidae after hearing him vent his frustration about how nearly every possible word or phrase seemed to already be taken by a band. He originally intended to use Cepheid Variable, but wanted to avoid any association with existing artists. The final name instead draws from Cepheidae, the taxonomic family that includes certain jellyfish.
- Chad Bernatchez joined the band after discovering the original solo debut on Spotify. Early discussions about a follow-up release evolved into the realization that Primordial Reverie deserved a full vocal version as well. His creative mind played a key role in expanding and refining the story that had originally been envisioned.
- All production was completed in Ryan Koepke's home studio Chromatic Variable Soundworks. Primordial Reverie marked his first fully realized production, shaped through relentless refinement and a commitment to achieving a professional sound. Primordial Reverie Ascendant revisits the material with renewed perspective.

Press Quotes

- “Primordial Reverie is a heavy, earnest dose of modern instrumental prog/symphonic metal. Towering guitar workouts like Carving a Dragon, Zephyr of Ourobours and the genuinely exciting Entropic Harvester showcase some serious chops.”
– Prog Magazine
- “Hits the mark perfectly, offering moments of pure poetry: a mix of technique and inspiration pushed to decidedly high-quality levels, confirming the compositional and interpretative talents of an artist of substance.”
– Rock Hard Italy Magazine
- “The musicianship is undeniable, with Koepke proving himself a highly capable guitarist.”
– Metalized Magazine
- “It’s easy for instrumental metal, and for progressive metal, to lose their emotional punch in a pile of clever passages. Ryan Koepke does an excellent job maintaining poignancy throughout Primordial Reverie’s hour-ish run time. This album does feel like a singular journey that takes the listener into different emotional headspaces as the music unfolds.”
– Metal Utopia
- “Driving rhythm, catchy riffs, and intensity.”
– Scream Magazine
- “This was a solid album to listen to. Without vocals, the artist has to work harder to convey his feelings and emotions in his music, and Ryan did that well. Many of the melodies you can hum or sing along with, and that’s a testament to the instrumental album.”
– Metal Temple
- “This is a well-performed album, great playing and a punch of a production too.”
– Melodic.net

Official Links

- Official Website: <https://cepheidaevARIABLE.com>
- Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/artist/0DFZHr1N4hUKjMV1mccmdV>
- Apple Music: <https://music.apple.com/us/artist/cepheidae-variable/1835047629>
- Bandcamp: <https://cepheidaevARIABLE.bandcamp.com>
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/cepheidaevARIABLE_official
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@CepheidaeVariable>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cepheidaevARIABLE>
- TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@cepheidaevARIABLE>