



# ICED EARTH

**\*\*\*‘OVERTURE OF THE WICKED’ EP RELEASED JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup>,  
PRECEDES ‘FRAMING ARMAGEDDON (SOMETHING WICKED  
PART 1)’ ALBUM RELEASED SEPTEMBER, &  
HEAVEN AND HELL UK TOUR NOVEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> – 18<sup>TH</sup>\*\*\***

Iced Earth’s upcoming new single, ‘Overture Of The Wicked’, released on June 4<sup>th</sup> on SPV Records, marks the beginning of what could be the most epic-proportioned metal release of the century so far. Main man Jon Schaffer has taken the band’s classic ‘Something Wicked’ trilogy, which originally appeared on 1998’s ‘Something Wicked This Way Comes’ album, rerecorded the three songs and extended the storyline into two brand new albums telling the story in its entirety.

The ‘Overture Of The Wicked’ single is the re-recorded version of that trilogy and the first single ‘Ten Thousand Strong’ which will appear on the ‘Framing Armageddon (Something Wicked Part 1)’ album, released in September. The second album concluding the ‘Something Wicked’ story will be released in early 2008. Schaffer agrees that, “It’s a bit Star Wars - with multiple parts and a long timeframe. The original trilogy is just an overview of the story that begins 12,000 years ago and leads us to modern day. You should look at the trilogy as an introduction to this whole epic. What is coming next in the two album parts is a far more in depth look into this very tragic, heavy and apocalyptic sci-fi/fantasy story.”

"For those of you that aren't familiar with the old version or the 'Something Wicked' story at all, you should check it out." says Schaffer. "The 'Something Wicked' trilogy is comprised of the songs 'Prophecy', 'Birth of the Wicked', and 'The Coming Curse' and has been completely rerecorded. From the ground up this is a more vicious and more atmospheric version of the epic piece. I played all of the guitar tracks with a baritone guitar and Brent [Smedley, drums] and I am locked up like a machine gun with the double kicks following many of the detailed picking patterns. This makes for a more intense- and wicked-sounding rhythm section. All of the vocals have been redone, obviously by Tim Owens, who did a masterful job at retaining the passion and honesty of the original, and still put his stamp on it and made it his own. We also put in some teaser atmospheric things that will give you a hint of things to come on 'Part 1'. But just a hint... we don't want to spoil any surprises."

‘Overture Of The Wicked’ and both studio albums were recorded at Schaffer’s Soaring Eagle Sound studio and mixed and mastered by Jim Morris at Morrissound. Iced Earth follow the release of the ‘Framing Armageddon (Something Wicked Part 1)’ with a special guest slot on Heaven and Hell’s UK tour at the following shows:-

November 4 <sup>th</sup>	Newcastle Metro Arena
November 6 <sup>th</sup>	Glasgow SECC Hall 4
November 7 <sup>th</sup>	Sheffield Hallam FM Arena
November 9 <sup>th</sup>	Manchester Evening News Arena
November 10 <sup>th</sup>	London Wembley Arena
November 11 <sup>th</sup>	Brighton Centre
November 13 <sup>th</sup>	Birmingham NEC
November 14 <sup>th</sup>	Cardiff International Arena
November 15 <sup>th</sup>	Nottingham Arena
November 17 <sup>th</sup>	Plymouth Pavilions
November 18 <sup>th</sup>	Bournemouth BIC

**\* Jon Schaffer and Tim Owens will be in the UK for interviews June 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>\***

**Wicked – Roland Hyams on 020 8677 8466 / 8769 6713 / roland@workhardpr.com  
www.icedearth.com www.spv.de 15<sup>th</sup> May 2007.**



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**\*\*\* London gig March 21<sup>st</sup> bumped up from Mean Fiddler to Astoria following rave reviews of new 'The Glorious Burden' album \*\*\***

*"Two years on from their last album, America's finest true metal band find themselves more popular than ever before. 'The Glorious Burden' is an outright masterpiece fully worthy of that popularity. Buoyed by the commanding abilities of ex-Judas Priest vocalist Tim 'Ripper' Owens, guitarist Jon Schaffer's crew have pulled out all available stops and created an album swollen with unashamed bombast and melodic strength. As with Nile's visionary approach to death metal, Iced Earth are giving an often-conservative genre a facelift. With lyrics based on legendary battles from the annals of American history and music that owes as much to the merciless sheen of modern extreme metal as it does to the classic cut 'n' thrust of early Maiden and Metallica, this is a flawless exercise in awesome musicianship and ambitious songwriting. Whether it's the imperial thunder of 'Declaration Day', the harsh, loping grind of 'Red Baron / Blue Max' or the near operatic battery of recent single 'The Reckoning', everything is so gleefully anthemic that there is not a single moment that won't plant a shit – chomping grin on any devoted metal warrior's face. And in three part epic 'Gettysburg (1853)', which clocks in at half an hour, Iced Earth may well have created the most joyously OTT finale to an album in rock history. Glorious indeed."*

*KKKKK. Dom Lawson, Kerrang! January 17<sup>th</sup> 2004*

Indiana-based melodic metallers ICED EARTH, whose ninth full-length studio album, *The Glorious Burden*, has just been released on SPV (on January 12<sup>th</sup>), have now sold out their previously announced Mean Fiddler gig and replaced it with the London Astoria. Tickets, priced £12, are on sale now from all usual outlets, and the box office on 0207 344 0044.

Having only hinted at their infatuation with history in the past with "Ghost Of Freedom" (from 2001's *Horror Show*) and "1776" (from 1998's *Something Wicked This Way Comes*), *The Glorious Burden* was totally inspired by ICED EARTH's fascination with US military history and world superpower status.

Guitarist and ICED EARTH main man Jon Schaffer comments that, *"In today's politically correct world, things aren't taught the way they should be, so now you've got a bunch of spoiled brats running around who take for granted everything they have and simply don't give a shit. I am disgusted when I see college students interviewed by Jay Leno who haven't got a clue. It's very frightening. I'm hoping that somewhere we can inspire some of these kids and get them interested – if your history teacher sucks and makes history boring, go and read some books on your own because it's far from boring. The sacrifices hundreds of thousands of men have made over the past 200 years is the reason these little brats can sit around playing video games all day and live pretty safe lives. I hope we can do some good with this record."*

*The Glorious Burden*, Schaffer admits, has been a long time coming. *"I've been a military history buff all my life. The bicentennial was a great time for me as both a history buff and a young kid, because I was literally obsessed with reading about the founding fathers and the American Revolution. I've always read history books far more than any fiction, but I never really put it into music before, with these kinds of emotions."*

Schaffer recently opened a historical collectables shop in Columbus, Indiana, called Spirit of '76 Collectibles, where he hopes to educate and enthuse budding history buffs with a wide selection of art, miniatures, models, battlefield relics, etc. An official website for the store is located at: [www.spirit-of-76.com](http://www.spirit-of-76.com).

The album closer, "Gettysburg (1863)", is a 32-minute epic comprised of three sections representing specific events that occurred on each of the 3 days of the Battle of Gettysburg (from the struggle of General Buford, Colonel Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain's defending of Little Round Top, to Pickett's charge). Schaffer hired the Prague Philharmonic Orchestra to enhance the theatrical atmosphere of the project and give it a truly epic sensation.

Joining Schaffer on this historic journey are former Death drummer Richard Christy, longtime bassist James MacDonough, guitarist Ralph Santolla, and the latest addition to the ICED EARTH family, former Judas Priest vocalist Tim Owens. Schaffer is especially excited about this, as he had been a fan of Tim's for some time. *"When I first heard Tim on Jugulator, I said to myself, 'damn, THAT is the voice I hear when I write songs!' He brings an excellent sense of pitch, power and emotion. People are going to hear sides of Tim on this record that they didn't even know existed."*

Shortly following the release of *The Glorious Burden*, ICED EARTH plan to supplement the album with the band's first-ever DVD, simply titled *Gettysburg*. The DVD is planned to contain footage of the recording sessions with the Prague Philharmonic Orchestra, a full documentary on the Gettysburg battlefield hosted by Jon Schaffer (who discusses important locations/details about the battle, as well as matches the song's themes to their actual locations in the historic battle), a fully animated video for "Gettysburg", and 2 special DVD-Audio mixes of the song (a 'theatrical mix' and a 'metal mix').

Glorious – Roland Hyams on 020 8677 8466 / 020 8769 6713.

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January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2004.



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**\*\*\*Welcome ex Judas Priest vocalist TIM OWENS on 'The Reckoning' EP released Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>, & The Glorious Burden album released 12<sup>th</sup> January on SPV; Gettysburg DVD and world tour to follow, including London Mean Fiddler gig March 21<sup>st</sup>\*\*\***

Indiana-based melodic metallers ICED EARTH have recruited former Judas Priest vocalist Tim Owens and are set to release a four track EP, 'The Reckoning', on October 27<sup>th</sup>, taken from the group's ninth full-length studio album, *The Glorious Burden*, due to be unleashed on SPV on January 12<sup>th</sup>. ICED EARTH, recently described by Kerrang!'s Dom Lawson as "Somewhere between Iron Maiden and early Metallica", have also confirmed a London Mean Fiddler headline show on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

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