



# MORNINGSTAR

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2 0 2 4 P R E S S K I T



[BAND@MORNINGSTARBAND.COM](mailto:BAND@MORNINGSTARBAND.COM)



[MORNINGSTARBAND.COM](http://MORNINGSTARBAND.COM)



608.338.7808

**"Morningstar is a beautiful visual and audio experience to behold!"**

*Grande Rock (July 2023)*



## **BIO**

Morningstar is a hard rock/metal band from Madison, WI, blending thrash metal, classic, and modern hard rock to create a powerful, **symphonic melodic metal sound** uniquely their own. Known for their genre-defying music, Morningstar delivers an **intense fusion of progressive emotional rock** with high-energy live performances that audiences eagerly connect with. Initially told they were "too heavy" for rock shows and "too light" for metal, the band persevered and carved out their own niche in the Midwest music scene.

They've performed at prominent venues and festivals like Brat Fest, Northwoods Rock Rally, Monster Hall Fest and Rock-2-Stop, a charitable event supporting veterans. And they've shared the stage with acts such as Taproot, Smile Empty Soul, Bobaflex, Gemini Syndrome, Royal Bliss, The Black Moods, September Mourning, Stitched Up Heart, Otherwise, KrashKarma, and more, solidifying their reputation as a standout in the region.

Beyond the stage, Morningstar is **known for engaging with fans** in person and online, fostering a fun, interactive community.

Morningstar's sound features heavy riffs, powerful vocals, and emotionally charged lyrics, **blending aggressive energy with melodic progression**. Their music shifts between introspective moments and anthemic choruses, creating a balance that appeals to both rock and metal fans. Visually, their live shows are equally compelling, featuring dramatic lighting, fog effects, and **cinematic theatrics** that create an immersive, unforgettable experience.

In 2022, they released their debut album *Between Your World and Mine*, which won Hard Rock/Metal Album of the Year at the 2023 Madison Area Music Awards. In 2024, Morningstar has been named a finalist for Artist of the Year, Performer of the Year, and Hard Rock/Metal Band of the Year, to be announced in October.

# ORIGINS...



The story of Morningstar begins in rural Wisconsin, where vocalist Amber Swenor, a self-taught singer, first discovered metal at the age of 10. She stumbled upon an abandoned Metallica tape in a park, sparking a lifelong passion for the genre.

Years later, Amber saw a newspaper ad that read, "Seeking vocalist to start a band." The ad was placed by a guitarist named Brandon Pockat, and that set the wheels in motion ...Early on, they formed an original rock/metal group, that went through several name and lineup changes. Amber's younger brother David joined as drummer, bringing more depth and creative vision to the evolving band.

Amber had once told him, "Learn how to play drums so we can start a band and tour the world together!" And he did. Amber and Brandon remained the core of the band through various evolutions. Finally, in 2018, Morningstar was born as a 3-piece power trio; finally starting to fulfill the dream they'd spoken of years before....

Soon after forming Morningstar, the band released their first single, "Bittersweet Lullaby," a powerful song with an equally powerful message. Amber explains, "The song was written to spark a conversation and reduce the stigma around mental health. For too long, it's been something people just don't talk about, and we hoped to change that, even in a small way."

In 2023 David departed the band to focus on his family. At that time, the band quickly recruited Zach Walton on drums, and longtime friend Ricky Staley joining on bass, rounding out the 4-piece band.

With more shows and new music on the way, Morningstar continues to connect with fans, release new music, and grow their fanbase well into the future.



# SOCIAL



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# MUSIC

*Bittersweet Lullaby*  
Music Video

*Eternal*  
Music Video

*The Circus*  
Music Video

# 26K+

SOCIAL FOLLOWERS

# 57K+

ONLINE STREAMS

# 140K+

VIDEO VIEWS

# PRESS & AWARDS

2023 Hard Rock/Metal Album of the Year  
Madison Area Music Awards

2024 finalists for Madison Area Music Awards:  
Artist of the Year  
Performer of the Year  
Hard Rock/Metal Band of the year

***"To compare Morningstar to any other band would be doing them a disservice. However, some fans have said that Morningstar reminds them of Kamelot, In This Moment, September Mourning, Avatar, and Amaranth."***

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# FAN FUN

