

A Belgian extreme metal band that's as experimental and atmosphere-driven as it is impossibly heavy, Amenra emerged in the early 2000s with a versatile sound rooted in doom, sludge, post-metal, and hardcore punk. Debuting in 2003 with *Mass I*, the group continued to push at the boundaries of extreme metal with acclaimed efforts like *Mass V* (2012) and *De Doorn* (2021).

Amenra was formed in 1999 by vocalist Colin H. van Eeckhout and guitarist Mathieu Vandekerckhove. Employing a lethal and often heady blend of doom, post-, and avant-garde metal, the duo eventually expanded into a five-piece with the addition of drummer Bjorn Lebon, guitarist Lennart Bossu, and bassist Levy Seynaeve. Based out of the West Flanders city of Kortrijk, the group issued their debut album, *Mass I*, in 2003 -- each Amenra full-length outing is thought of as a mass and is titled as such. Two years later, they released *Mass II* and *Mass III*, and established the Church of Ra, a D.I.Y. collective of like-minded artists and friends with whom they would collaborate on various artistic endeavors and performances. *Mass IV* arrived in 2008, followed in 2012 by *Mass V*, and in 2017 by *Mass VI*, the latter two of which were issued on Neurot Recordings. Stepping away from the decades-long *Mass* journey, the band inked a deal with Relapse Records and released the transcendent *De Doorn* in 2021, which included guest vocals from Caro Tanghe of Oathbreaker.