CONCERT REVIEW

Sabaton Opens the U.S. Leg of Legends on Tour in Dallas

The Swedish power metal band brought an 18-song set to South Side Ballroom on November 6, opening the American run of a tour built around historical storytelling, and known for tanks, pyro, and a stage that looks like a battlefield.

By Christine Thompson · AMFM Magazine

Photos by Andrew Baca for AMFM Magazine

The main U.S. leg of Sabaton's Legends on Tour started in Dallas. On November 6, 2026, the Swedish power metal band from Falun played South Side Ballroom with support from Pop Evil and Wings of Steel, a bill confirmed on the Dallas setlist compiled at setlist.fm and in subsequent tour coverage. KNAC later noted that the main U.S. leg of the tour kicked off at that Dallas date, after a postponed spring run tied to an arm injury for bassist Pär Sundström.

What can be said with certainty about the Dallas night itself is the set. Setlist.fm lists an 18-song performance, with no encore break marked, and doors at 6:00 p.m. The order is the map of the evening. Everything else that made the room shake, the flames, the tanks, the costumes, has to be described as what this tour is known for, drawn from published reviews of other stops, because AMFM is working from the verified setlist and from those accounts, not from a reporter's notebook written on the floor that night.



Photo by Andrew Baca for AMFM Magazine

A BAND BUILT ON HISTORY

Sabaton formed in 1999 in Falun. The founding lineup was lead singer Joakim Brodén, bassist Pär Sundström, guitarists Oskar Montelius and Rikard Sundén, and drummer Richard Larsson. The band has been through multiple lineup changes. Brodén and Sundström remain the only constant members. As of 2026, the group has released eleven studio albums, four live albums, five live DVDs, and thirty music videos, and the vast majority of its songs are about historical events, mainly wars and significant battles.

The current lineup around those two founders is guitarists Chris Rörland (with the band since 2012) and Thobbe Englund, who first joined in 2012, left in 2016, and returned in 2024, and drummer Hannes Van Dahl, a member since 2013.

The tour takes its name from *Legends*, the band's eleventh studio album, released October 17, 2025, on Better Noise Music. Official notes for the record describe it as a set of stories about historical figures, from the Knights Templar and Genghis Khan to Julius Caesar and Miyamoto Musashi. In March 2026, the band followed it with the standalone single "Yamato," about the Japanese battleship, a song the official site is careful to say is not part of the *Legends* album.

Dallas heard both the new album and that single, and, according to setlist.fm, the live debut of a song called "Berserker."

THE SET, SONG BY SONG

The Dallas set opened the way this tour has opened elsewhere: with "Ghost Division," from 2008's *The Art of War*. "Yamato" came second. Then the band moved into "The Red Baron," "The Last Stand," and "Stormtroopers," a stretch that, in reviews from Vancouver to Houston, is often described as the moment the room locks in.

"Christmas Truce" and "Soldier of Heaven" followed, two songs from *The War to End All Wars*. Then came "Crossing the Rubicon," the first *Legends* track of the night, and "Night Witches," before another new-album cut, "I, Emperor."

"The Attack of the Dead Men" sat in the middle of the set, a song that has become one of the tour's most theatrical numbers at other stops. "Bismarck" came next, then the live debut, "Berserker." Setlist.fm flags that debut specifically for Dallas. The song does not appear on the official *Legends* track list, and this review does not assign it an album.

Two more *Legends* songs, "Hordes of Khan" and "Templars," led into the closing run: "Primo Victoria," "Swedish Pagans," and "To Hell and Back." Setlist.fm does not list an encore. The following night in Houston, playing the same 18-song sequence, KNAC reported that Sabaton "simply powered through their entire 18-song set without ever leaving the stage," and ended with "To Hell and Back."



Photo by Andrew Baca for AMFM Magazine

WHAT THIS TOUR IS BUILT TO DO

Sabaton's live reputation on this run is not subtle, and the reviews have been consistent about the kind of show the band is touring. The production is military in its imagery: camouflage, battle vests, a stage organized around tanks, and pyrotechnics that reviewers describe as part of the music rather than a decoration around it.

In Toronto, Metal Master Kingdom wrote that "the amount of theatricality they have incorporated into their show over the years can rival any of the legacy acts known for their theatrical stage shows," and described two tanks on stage, "one realistic looking one, and an inflatable one which was used as the drum riser." Flame spurts and concussion blasts, that review said, arrived with the opening of "Ghost Division." The same account noted a recurring piece of theater on "The Attack of the Dead Men," with the band starting the song in gas masks.

KNAC, covering Houston on November 7, the night after Dallas, called this "the band's biggest and most elaborate stage production to date," with drummer Hannes Van Dahl playing atop an enormous centerpiece tank and a smaller tank off to the side. The band took the stage in "trademark camouflage fatigues and battle vests," the review said, and was "greeted by an explosive burst of pyro" before "Ghost Division." Microphone stands fashioned from rifles and military helmets added to the battlefield look. For "The Attack of the Dead Men," KNAC described green lighting, gas masks, and Brodén carrying a chemical canister, a staged evocation of the World War I battle that inspired the song.

Concert Addicts, reviewing the October 8 stop at the PNE Forum in Vancouver, put the fire in even stronger terms. "These were not small decorative flashes placed around the edges of the show," the review said. "The explosions felt woven directly into the music, punctuating major riffs and choruses."

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> Concert Addicts, Vancouver, October 8, 2026

That is the show the tour is selling. It does not follow that every room gets the same scale. Several reviews make the point that the production is adjusted to the venue. Crucial Rhythm, writing about the Burton Cummings Theatre in Winnipeg, said the two tanks were reduced to one and that concussion bombs and fireworks were off the table, with fire cannons used instead.

KNAC's Larry Petro, preparing for Houston, watched video from Dallas opening night and wrote that South Side Ballroom appeared to use "a considerably smaller version of the tank" than the full Canadian setup, "more in line with what I'd seen from the band previously." The difference, he concluded, was venue size. South Side Ballroom is a smaller room than Houston's 713 Music Hall, which received the larger production the next night.

So the honest version of Dallas is this: the set was the full 18-song Legends on Tour sequence, including the live debut of "Berserker," in a room that, based on that published account of the opening-night video, ran a more compact version of the tour's tank staging. What the flames did, what was said between songs, how loud the sing-alongs got, those details belong to people who were there, including Andrew Baca, whose photographs accompany this piece.

THE FRONTMAN AND THE CROWD, AS THE TOUR TELLS IT

At the center of the production, review after review places Joakim Brodén. Concert Addicts wrote that his voice "was commanding throughout the set, carrying both the force and theatrical weight that these songs demand," and that "his presence was massive, but there was also a sense of joy behind it." V13, at Place Bell in Laval, wrote that "with his reflective glasses and chest plate, singer Joakim Brodén ruled the stage like a battlefield." Metal Master Kingdom noted that everyone in the band gets a chance to address the crowd, and that Brodén has a habit, at least at some stops, of acknowledging a young fan in the room.

None of that is a Dallas quote. It is the pattern of the tour, and it is the reason a Sabaton headline date has a particular charge: the songs are history lessons set to power metal, and the band has spent years learning how to make a room feel like a campaign.

> *"The stage production alone is worth the price of admission."*
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> KNAC, Houston, November 7, 2026

The U.S. run continues from here. Official dates on sabaton.net pick up November 17 in Salt Lake City and carry through mid-December. For Dallas, the record of the night that can be nailed down is the setlist, the bill, and the fact that Legends on Tour chose South Side Ballroom as the opening door of its main American leg. The rest is the reputation the band is hauling across the country, one battlefield stage at a time.



Photo by Andrew Baca for AMFM Magazine

FIND SABATON

Dallas setlist: November 6, 2026, South Side Ballroom. As listed at setlist.fm: Ghost Division; Yamato; The Red Baron; The Last Stand; Stormtroopers; Christmas Truce; Soldier of Heaven; Crossing the Rubicon; Night Witches; I, Emperor; The Attack of the Dead Men; Bismarck; Berserker (live debut); Hordes of Khan; Templars; Primo Victoria; Swedish Pagans; To Hell and Back. Support listed: Pop Evil and Wings of Steel. No encore is marked on the setlist.

Official site: sabaton.net · Tour dates: sabaton.net/tour

Social: Instagram · Facebook · X · YouTube

Upcoming U.S. dates (from sabaton.net, as of November 16, 2026): Nov. 17, Salt Lake City, The Union Event Center; Nov. 18, Loveland, Blue FCU Arena; Nov. 20, Omaha, Steelhouse Omaha; Nov. 21, Milwaukee, Landmark Credit Union Live; Nov. 22, Minneapolis, The Armory; Nov. 24, Chicago, The Salt Shed; Nov. 25, Des Moines, Vibrant Music Hall; Nov. 27, St. Louis, The Factory; Nov. 28, Cincinnati, The Andrew J Brady Music Center; Nov. 29, Detroit, The Fillmore Detroit; Dec. 1, Boston, MGM Music Hall at Fenway; Dec. 2, Philadelphia, The Met; Dec. 3, Pittsburgh, Citizens Live at The Wylie; Dec. 5, Virginia Beach, The Dome by Rutter Mills (listed as sold out); Dec. 6, National Harbor, The Theater at MGM National Harbor; Dec. 8, Atlanta, Coca-Cola Roxy; Dec. 9, Nashville, The Truth; Dec. 11, Orlando, Hard Rock Live; Dec. 12, Ft. Lauderdale, War Memorial Auditorium. A Swedish arena run begins January 29, 2027, in Kiruna, followed by a European arena tour in April and May 2027. Full listings are on the official tour page.

Album: *Legends*, the eleventh studio album, released October 17, 2025, on Better Noise Music. The single “Yamato” was released March 13, 2026.