ESP GUITARS PRESS RELEASE

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ESP Guitars Expands Signature Series with New Models for Mick Thomson (Slipknot), Richard ZK (Rammstein), Josh Middleton (Sylosis), Andy LaRocque (King Diamond), Alex Skolnick (Testament), and More

ANAHEIM, CA (JANUARY 23, 2025) – ESP Guitars (NAMM Booth 210D) unveiled 10 new and updated guitars in their acclaimed Signature Series. ESP/LTD Signature Series instruments are based on the specifications of custom guitars and basses played by members of their industry-leading artist endorsement roster.

“Since the very start of ESP, artist signature models have been a key part of the brand,” says Tony Rauser, ESP Director of Artist Relations. “Musicians like George Lynch, James Hetfield, and many other legendary and influential players helped introduce ESP to the world by making their custom ESP guitars available for other musicians to purchase.”

The highly-anticipated Signature Series guitar for **Mick Thomson** of Slipknot, the **LTD MT-I**, makes its debut at NAMM 2025. Available in Obsidian Metallic finish, the MT-I is based on the MH-style body, with an arched top and an inline reverse headstock. This guitar features set-thru construction at 25.5” scale, pairing a mahogany body with white ash top to a three-piece maple neck with a Macassar ebony fingerboard with compound radius and 24 medium-jumbo stainless steel frets. Special features on the MT-I include a Graph Tech Black TUSQ XL nut, Hipshot Grip-Lock locking open gear tuners, an all-brass Hipshot Hi-Mass hardtail bridge, blue Luminlay side markers, and a Fishman Fluence Mick Thomson Signature pickup with a 3-way low profile toggle switch to select between Voice 1, Voice 1 with bass boost shift, and Voice 2, and a push/pull volume control to select Voice 3.

The **LTD RZK-III** is the newest signature model for **Richard ZK** of Rammstein. Beginning with the smooth flowing curves of the Phoenix body shape, the RZK-III comes in a classy Olympic White finish. It offers neck-thru-body construction at 25.5” scale, with alder body wings and a three-piece satin-finished maple neck with rosewood fingerboard. Features and components on the LTD RZK-III include a TonePros locking bridge and tailpiece that are both recessed, a brushed black pickguard, 22 extra-jumbo stainless steel frets, a reversible arcade-stye kill switch, and a set of Fishman Fluence Richard Z Kruspe signature pickups with a push-pull control to select voicings.

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With the **LTD JM-I**, ESP is introducing its second Signature Series model for **Josh Middleton**, the acclaimed guitarist for Sylosis. Available with a Deep Blood Moon finish over a quilted maple top, the JM-I offers an alder body and a three-piece roasted maple neck with bolt-on construction at 25.5” scale. This guitar features black binding on the body and headstock, a Macassar ebony fingerboard with 24 extra-jumbo stainless steel frets, Luminlay side markers, and a single Fishman Fluence Modern Humbucker, with voice selection on a push-pull control.

The new **LTD ALR-II** is the long-awaited Signature Series guitar for **Andy LaRocque**, influential guitarist/ music producer and co-founder of the iconic heavy metal band King Diamond. Based on the Horizon body, the ALR-II offers neck-thru-body construction at 24.75” scale, and is distinctively finished in See Thru Purple over its figured quilted maple top with a classic teardrop headstock. It features a three-piece maple neck, a Macassar ebony fingerboard with a compound radius and 24 extra-jumbo stainless steel frets, Luminlay side markers, a Floyd Rose 1000 double-locking tremolo, and a set of Seymour Duncan TB-4 JB Trembucker (bridge) and STK-S6 Custom Stack Plus (neck) passive pickups.

Caleb Shomo, the founder, songwriter, and producer of rock band Beartooth, has his first Signature Series guitar with the debut of the **LTD CS-II**. Based on the Phoenix shape, the CS-II is available with a figured quilted maple top in Vintage Natural finish. This neck-thru-body guitar is offered at 25.5” scale, and comes with mahogany body wings, a three-piece thin u-shaped mahogany neck, Macassar ebony fingerboard, and 22 extra-jumbo stainless steel frets. Components on the CS-II include gold hardware, black binding on body, neck, head, brushed black pickguard, a black bone nut, a locking bridge and tailpiece, and a pickup set that includes ESP’s exclusive Seymour Duncan Custom 14 humbucker in the bridge (splittable with push-pull control) and a Seymour Duncan STR-3 Quarter Pound pickup in the neck.

A new Signature Series guitar has been announced for **Alex Wade** of deathcore band Whitechapel. The **LTD AW-XJ7 Baritone EverTune** provides the LTD XJ shape in a 7-string, 27” scale baritone guitar that also features the innovative EverTune constant tension bridge. Available in a Black Open Grain Satin finish, the AW-XJ7 Baritone EverTune offers bolt-on construction, a resonant swamp ash body, and a five-piece maple/walnut/padauk neck with a Macassar ebony fingerboard. This guitar’s features include 24 extra-jumbo stainless steel frets, a brushed black pickguard, LTD locking tuners, and a single DiMarzio D-Activator 7 passive pickup that can be split with a push/pull volume control.

A number of Signature Series guitar models for current ESP Signature artists have received fresh updates. Renowned guitarist **Alex Skolnick** of Testament has a new Lime Burst finish and new pickups for his **LTD AS-1FR** signature model. Based on the single-cutaway EC shape, this guitar features set-thru construction at 24.75” scale, a mahogany body with flamed maple top, three-piece maple neck, Macassar ebony fingerboard, a Floyd Rose 1000 double-locking tremolo, Dunlop Straploks, and a set of Seymour Duncan Alex Skolnick Signature Humbucker pickups, splittable with push-pull control.

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The **LTD MSV-1**, signature model for founding member **Mike Schleibaum** of metal band Darkest Hour, is now available in a Black Gloss finish. Based on the Arrow shape, it features neck-thru-body construction at 24.75” scale, a mahogany body with maple cap, a three-piece mahogany neck, Macassar ebony fingerboard with pearloid block inlays and 24 extra-jumbo stainless steel frets, a gold Floyd Rose 1000 double-locking tremolo, and a single EMG JH James Hetfield Humbucker pickup with a brushed gold cover.

Longtime ESP Signature artist **Stephen Carpenter** (Deftones) has an updated finish for his **LTD SC-608 Baritone** signature guitar. Now offered in a bright Yellow finish inspired by the ESP Custom Shop guitar he affectionately nicknamed “Chiquita,” this 8-string, 27” baritone guitar offers neck-thru-body construction with a mahogany body and three-piece maple neck with Macassar ebony fingerboard. Components include LTD locking tuners, a Hipshot hardtail bridge with string-thru-body, and a set of Fishman Fluence SRC Signature 3-Voice pickups with a 5-way super switch and push-pull controls for voice selection.

The **LTD WA-Warbird**, the Signature Series guitar of **Will Adler** (Lamb of God), has been updated with an outstanding new black/gold color theme. This single-cutaway guitar, based on the EC shape, has set-thru construction at 24.75” scale, with a mahogany body, a three-piece maple neck with satin-finished back and Macassar ebony fingerboard with 22 extra-jumbo stainless steel frets, an LTD locking bridge and tailpiece, and a set of Fishman Fluence Signature Series Will Adler pickups with matching gold covers.

Detailed information and specs on the ESP/LTD Signature Series are available on the ESP web site at www.espguitars.com.

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About ESP Guitars

Founded in 1975, the ESP Guitar Company is a leading global manufacturer of quality musical instruments. ESP brands include ESP Custom Shop, ESP Original Series, ESP/LTD Signature Series, ESP USA, ESP E-II, and LTD. For more information call 800-423-8388 or visit www.espguitars.com.