Hard Rock Info

REVIEWS 2016 (Page 2)

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ROYAL HUNT: Cargo - Double album

It looks like this symphonic/progressive metal band have released as much as 13 albums. "Cargo" is a double live album, including recordings from festivals like ProgPower USA, Loud Park Japan and Rockingham UK. The album includes a complete rendition of their signature concept album "Paradox" (which I have never heard).

Well, as you might know I'm not the biggest fan of either symphonic or progressive metal, even though there can be something good once in a while. This band is not among the good bands. Their eternity long songs goes in through 1 ear and out through the other.

A friend of mine who like progressive rock, use to come with the argument that they're so good at what they're doing. But honestly, I don't buy that argument. I don't care how good they can play as long as they can't make songs that I like. It's like some people think that it's good just becuse it's advanced. How stupid.

(Frontiers Music Srl^[2])

APRIL 6, 2016

LORDS OF BLACK: II - Album

Pretty hard heavy metal for being released by Frontiers, who mainly seems to release AOR and melodic hard rock. But that doesn't really mean that it's hard as JUDAS PRIEST or ACCEPT. No, there's a lot of melody in these songs. Many of the songs makes me think of W.A.S.P. actually.

This band comes from Spain, and is probably most well-known because their singer Ronnie Munroe will be singing with Ritchie Blackmore at a couple of shows this summer, where Ritchie is going to play songs by DEEP PURPLE and RAINBOW for the first time in many years.

The album was co-produced, mixed and mastered by Roland Grapow (MASTERPLAN, ex-HELLOWEEN). And the label claims that this will instantly become a absolute metal classic. Well, it's really good, no doubt about that, but I'm not ready to call it a classic.

(Frontiers Music Srl^[3]) APRIL 6, 2016

RAMPART: Codex Metalum - Album

So here's the opening band for Dirkschneider (Udo Dirkschneider performing ACCEPT songs for the last time) that I totally missed in the end of February. Seems like that was a little stupid now that I've finally heard them. It might not be a masterpiece that they have made here, but it's definitely good classic heavy metal. There's just a few small details that disturb me. Like when she is singing with a voice that sounds like she is holding her nose or like a smurf. Or when they start a song with something that sounds like a musical box for children. Stop that shit and concentrate your energy on pure heavy metal instead.

RAMPART comes from Bulgaria, and was founded 10 years ago. "Codex Metalum" is their fourth album. And no true fan of heavy metal should be dissapointed when they listen to this.

Release date: April 8, 2016 (Iron Shield Records^[4]) APRIL 5, 2016

DISTANT PAST: Rise Of The Fallen - Album

This is a concept album about the eternal struggle of the temptation of Lucifer vs. the teachings of God's son. I concentrate on the music though, and most of these 10 tracks sounds good enough for me. No doubt about that.

DISTANT PAST is a heavy metal band from Switzerland.

I don't think I will get any further than that with this review, no matter how many times I have been listening to this album. But give it a try anyway.

Release date: April 8, 2016 (Pure Steel Publishing^[5])

distant-past.ch^[6]

APRIL 5, 2016

FABRIKEN: Mot Botten Av Ett Hål - EP

Excuse me, but doesn't this sound more or less the same as their previous EPs? Luckily it's good, so I guess I shouldn't complain.

It's the best kind of Swedish pop punk filled with melody. Sensitive somehow. So if you're a fan of what we call trallpunk, then you should definitely check out this band, who have members from bands like ROLANDS GOSSKÖR, COCA CAROLA, DIA PSALMA etc.

Release date: April 7, 2016 (Beat Butchers^[7])

facebook.com/ifabriken^[8]

APRIL 5, 2016

GRIMNER: Eldhjärta - Single

Folk metal in Swedish. And There's different kinds of folk metal. We have the party and sing-a-long version with FINNTROLL and the black metal version with MÅNEGARM. But GRIMNER isn't really like any of them. This is more like very catchy heavy metal mixed with old Swedish folk music. They even spice it up with folk music instruments. And I must say that it's not a bad mixture at all. I like it, but I'm not really sure if I would want a whole album with this.

This song comes from their second album, "Frost Mot Eld", which was released in February.

(Despotz Records^[9]) grimnerband.com^[10] *APRIL 4, 2016*

The KRISTET UTSEENDE and LEDJELLY at Sticky Fingers in Göteborg, Sweden on April 2, 2016

I actually asked some friends if they were intrested in buying my ticket for this sold out show, because both my legs was in bad shape in the beginning of the week. But nobody seemed to be interested or had other plans, and the legs was luckily better in the end of the week, so I went to the show anyway. I almost regret it though, because it became what we can call an evening of hate. First no bus to the station for 45 minutes, so I had to take a taxi. And when I arrived the damned bus to Göteborg was late. I guess it took about 25 minutes before it finally came a bus. And after that, when I finally was in the right city, I had to wait for a tram for almost 15 minutes. I hate to wait!

When I arrived at Sticky Fingers, the first band, LEDJELLY, had already started to play, just as I expected. Always something, but I'm not really sure what they were doing there. To me it sounded like grunge, which can be good. But unfortunately this band wasn't more than o.k. So I thought I should have a beer. But shit! People everywhere! No way that I was going to stand there and wait for an eternity, so I went to the toilet instead. And when I was done the bar on the second floor had finally opened, which was perfect. Not much people there yet, and I could actually sit down for a while (the only chance I got to sit by the way).

Unfortunately you can't see the show from the bar on the second floor, so when I had drank my beer I went back to the first bar to see the show from there, and maybe get the chance to sit and watch the show, as I walk with a crutch (fucked up hip if you have to know). But there was still very much people, and more and more came. That might be the reason why The KRISTET UTSEENDE didn't start until 30 minutes later than they should have. I was very irritated. Too much people and wait. Not exactly my favorite things in life. Why can't they play at a bigger venue? It's always sold out when they play at Sticky. And this time it was extreme. Last time I go and see them there.

When the band finally started to play, I thought that most people would go closer to the stage, so I could sit down. But hell no. It wasn't as extreme as before in the bar, but no seat was available. And the lazy bastards didn't seem to give a fuck that I was standing there with a crutch. I hate them all!

Well, let's talk about The KRISTET UTSEENDE then.. A Swedish metal/punk band that you shouldn't take too seriously, as they sing about drugs and perverted things among others. Very funny lyrics in Swedish and damned good music. This men can really play tight. And just as I expected, they played a lot of old classics from the 90s and a few newer songs. So no problem with the band at least. They delivered and came back 2 times before they were done.















APRIL 3, 2016 22

PSYCHO: From The Asylum - Album

Seems like they want to give us the impression that they're wild psychos directly from the madhouse. But this doesn't sound so brutal and crazy as you might expect. No, I would describe this as dirty hard rock n roll brewed on alcohol and testosterone. This is actually the seventh record from these Canadian thrashers, who formed in 1987 already. Yes, they call it thrash, and sure there is some thrash in their music too, but otherwise I think my earlier description is pretty good.

(CDN Records^[11]) psychomusic.ca^[12] APRIL 2, 2016

LARRE U-A: Don't Look Away - Single

Just as last time I heard this band, I don't really know what to write about their songs. It's pretty o.k. rock, and this song might actually be a little better than the previous 2 that I've heard.

The band comes from Uddevalla on the westcoast of Sweden. They describe their music as "classic rock/hard rock with influences from the rock music made in the 70s/80s, as well as from the punk scene".

(Self released)

APRIL 2, 2016



BIZARRE: Inner Necropolis - EP

Doom/death metal. Hardly the best I've heard. It feels like the songs last for an eternity, even though they're not longer than approximately 3-4 and a half minutes. This is the first record from this Spanish band, who have members from ONIROPHAGUS, FAMISHGOD and ELDERDAWN. Their music is dark and heavy but pretty brutal. They're influenced by the Finnish scene, with bands like ADRAMELECH, CARTILAGE, DEMIGOD, DEMILICH etc. But they also take inspiration from bands like ANASARCA, INTESTINE BAALISM, AVULSED and GRAVE.

(Xtreem Music^[13]) APRIL 2, 2016

VERMENT: Death's Domain - EP

If 7 tracks of crushing death metal sounds like something that you want to hear, then VERMANT should be just what you want. Their roots are in the old school, but they also add a modern twist to it.

VERMENT consist of 4 gentlemen from the greater Cincinnati area, and they seems to know how to do this kind of stuff, because it sounds really good to me anyway. Release date: April 1, 2016 (Self released) *APRIL 1, 2016*

VICTORIAN WHORE DOGS: Afternoonified - Album

UK sludge metal band. They have previously released 2 EPs. This is their first full length though. I have definitely heard better sludge bands. They're a little too noisey and monotonous for me. But that's hardly anything unusual when it comes to this kind of bands. So if you're a fan of sludge, don't listen too much to what I say. Just check it out and make your own decision instead.

Release date: April 1, 2016 (Hibernacula Records)

APRIL 1, 2016

HELLSINGLAND UNDERGROUND: Understanding Gravity - Album

Americana/melodic country rock. Very laid-back songs from this band, but I like what I hear. They definitely have a couple of really good songs here, but track 4 and the last song, which is in Swedish, is a little extra good.

The band comes from Ljusdal, Sweden and formed in the summer of 2006. Their first self-titled album was released in March 2008.

Well, if you prefer old rock bands from the 60s/70s, then this is definitely something for you.

That's all I have to say..

Release date: April 1, 2016 (Wild Kingdom)

hellsinglandunderground.com^[14]

MARCH 31, 2016

RIDEAU: Rideau - Album

What? Have somebody sent me a record for relaxing? You can easily think that when you hear the first track at least. But after that they start to rock.

RIDEAU (French for curtain) comes from Sweden, and are described as "a high-octane hurricane of hardcore, punk and rock 'n' roll." They're influenced by bands like The HIVES, REFUSED, The BRONX and KVELERTAK. A catchy rock band that do a little like they want to. It's not anything complicated though.

Not bad actually.. Maybe you should give it a try?

European release date: April 1, 2016 (Mutiny Records/OMN/Rough Trade)

rideau.se^[15]

MARCH 31, 2016



SUB K & The SAVAGE: Coffin Jukebox - Album

The good songs are way too few. Too much boring crap here. Many covers (maybe just covers, with artists like Lou Reed, David Bowie, DEVO, The MONKEES etc.). They definitely put their own twist to the songs. But that doesn't help much when it's not fun to listen to. I get tired after half the album, and there's as much as 16 tracks. The

last half is by the way the worst half of this record. Too much electronic stuff there. The first half does at least have some o.k. rock songs.

How am I going to describe the music then? I would say some kind of post punk, but that's not really enough to describe this album.

This is on the other hand just a one off project, where Sub K (Allen Adams, singer in the punk band The DESTRUCTORS) can do whatever he like to do, which he felt that he couldn't with his other band. He's backed up by The SAVAGE, and the members comes from Peterborough, UK and its environs.

Release date: March 31, 2016 (Rowdy Farrago Records) *MARCH 30, 2016*

The MUDDIES: First Blood - Album

It's rocking!

Debut album from a energetic Finnish rock quartet, influenced by classic bands like AC/DC, MOTÖRHEAD, DR. FEELGOOD and The HIVES for example. But that doesn't mean that they sound exactly like any of those bands, because they simply put them in a blender and mix it to their own brew. Nothing unique, but they definitely kick arse anyway.

Release date: April 1, 2016 (Secret Entertainment^[16])

soundcloud.com/the-muddies^[17] MARCH 29, 2016

HOT COFFIN: Hot Coffin - Album

This Milwaukee band is labeled as noise/sludge/punk/rock. Luckily I can't hear any noise here (I hate noise). But my first impression was actually that they reminds me of TURBONEGRO around "Ass Cobra" and "Apocalypse Dudes", but with their own twist to it (which is my favorite albums with that band). It's some kind of rock anyway, and it's pretty good stuff. So if you also like TURBONEGRO, why not give this band a try?

A review doesn't have to be 7 miles long, so I guess that's enough..

Release date: April 1, 2016 (Triple Eye Industries)

facebook.com/hotcoffin^[18]

MARCH 29, 2016

INISHMORE: The Lemming Project - Album

This seems to be a funny band. A song titled "Better Off Dead" is followed up by a song called "Finally A Love Song". Seems like they have humour in Switzerland. In the information sheet they promise us gold and green woods (to translate a Swedish expression), and that is nothing unusual. But what do we really get? Female-fronted second class melodic metal from some people that look like they're at least as

old as me (but not as good looking of course as I look much younger than I really am). It's not totally hopeless though, there's some good stuff here and there, like "Manifest" and "Red Lake" for example, but it's hardly the best that I've ever heard in my life. And how exiting is an acoustic version of a song, "Where Lonely Shadows Walk", that they have already played? Especially when most of the song already is acoustic from the beginning.

The title track is an ambitious 12.40 minutes adventure.

(Dark Wings^[19])

inishmore.ch^[20]

MARCH 28, 2016

MARTYR: You Are Next - Album

Dutch metal. The main ingredient is heavy metal, but there can just as well be power metal or thrash metal. This is the kind of band who do as they want. And that is probably what will keep them in the underground. Because there's hardly any hit potential or any anthems here. I wouldn't say that it's bad though. It's pretty o.k. stuff. But unfortunately soon forgotten. I wish them good luck though.

Release date: March 31, 2016 (Pure Steel Publishing^[21]/Into The Limelight Records) martyronline.nl^[22]

MARCH 27, 2016

SWAMP ELF: Swamp Dog - EP

SWAMP ELF is a band from Vaasa, Finland who formed in 2010. They play fuzz/psychedelic heavy rock, or stoner rock if you prefer that. We get 4 songs, and they're definitely on the right side according to me, as there's a twist of BLACK SABBATH influences here. Their music makes me think of the early 70s. So sure, this could be worth lending an ear to. I don't have much else to say though.. (Self released)

swampelf.bandcamp.com^[23] *MARCH 26, 2016*

STANDING OVATION: Gravity Beats Nuclear - Album

Yeah right. It's hardly like I do any standing ovation when I listen to this progressive soup, made on rock and metal. That's false marketing.

It's a soup with many flavours, that I think that people who like progressive stuff just will love. And I have definitely taste worse things than this in my life.

It's not the most advanced recipe, which makes it easier to swallow. I think it's best described as a melodic adventure, even though there's some hard parts here and there too.

Best track: "Run Little Mouse Run".

STANDING OVATION is a Finnish band founded in 2006, and "Gravity Beats Nuclear" is their second album.

standingovationband.com^[24] MARCH 26, 2016

SORIZON: End Of Entrapment - EP

American heavy metal band from Orange County, California, who call their music radical metal for some reason. 6 songs is what we get on this EP, and this band is not the ones who limit themselves to just 1 style or genre. Here's both hard and heavy song, as well as more melodic songs. I like more melodic stuff like "Poisonous Kiss" and "Bypass The Pain" best. But fact is that it's actually just the 2 first songs who are harder, so maybe they should concentrate on the melodic heavy metal instead of trying to be hard boys? Because as it is now, they give a little schizo impression. *MARCH 26, 2016*

SLUGGER: Slugger - Digital album

This sounds like something that you could hear on Swedish national radio in the late 80s/early 90s. They make me think of a couple of Swedish rock bands from that time, that I can't even remember the names of now. It's pretty soft and dance friendly rock. Really catchy and melodic. Some songs might be a little too lame though. It's hardly something for the hardest rocker, but I like most of the material. My favorite is the power pop track "Dirty Marie".

The band formed in Stockholm, Sweden 2014, and have since then released a 3-track EP and a video for the EP's title track, "Stalker".

sluggerofficial.com^[25] MARCH 26, 2016

fubear.: III - EP

Doom/stoner with a clear 70s vibe. You get heavy riffs and nice melodies, and sometimes even a little psychedelic parts.

fubear. was formed in 2012 in the city of Jyväskylä, Finland. "III" is their third EP, which also includes 3 songs. And if that wasn't enough when it comes to number 3, the band is a trio.

Really good songs. This could definitely be worth your attention.

(Inverse Records^[26])

facebook.com/fubearband^[27] MARCH 25, 2016

The FOG: Perpetual Blackness - Album

Why not start the record with a 9.24-minutes brick and end it with one that's 12.26 minutes? The 5 songs between those 2 are a little shorter though - 3.18 to 7.13. The music is raw and heavy doom/sludge/death metal. More brutal than hip shake friendly (in lack of a better way to describe it). It's not something that you will dance to, but you can definitely bang your head to it. More AMEBIX with a twist of VENOM than BLACK SABBATH if we put it that way.

This might be something for fans of HELLHAMMER, WINTER, early ASPHYX, MORGOTH, first GOATLORD, NECRO SCHIZMA and AUTOPSY.

(Memento Mori Records)

MARCH 25, 2016

FENISIA: Fenisia Cafe - Album

FENESIA was born in Rome in 2009. They released their first album, "Lucifer", in 2011. Now their second album is here, which is filled with a little heavier hard rock/heavy metal. It makes me think of the later stuff with Ozzy Osbourne actually, even though it's not exactly the same, but definitely something similar at least. Pretty o.k. stuff actually.

(Sliptrick Records)

fenisia.com^[28]

MARCH 25, 2016

HYPERION: Seraphical Euphony - Album

But hello? Acoustic guitar and then an orchestra on that? What have I said about these useless intros? When are the world going to understand and care, and finally stop this terror?

Such an intro doesn't really make any sense when the band play melodic blackened death metal. They should of course concentrate their energy on that instead of stupid experiments.

Well, enough about that then. Let's talk about the real songs instead. It's definitely good stuff, but some songs are actually a little too long. On the other hand they succeed to keep the songs alive all the way, so it's not really a problem.

A funny thing is that some titles are in Latin, while some are in English. But as far as I can hear all lyrics are in English.

(Black Lion Pruductions^[29])

facebook.com/HyperionSwe^[30]

MARCH 24, 2016

Raff Sangiorgio: Rebirth - Album

I got some good new and some bad news..

Well, I hope he had a lot of fun when he recorded this. Because it's unfortunately not so funny to listen to a whole album of instrumental guitar songs. The only positive thing is that there's at least a lot of variation between these songs, and not just different versions of the same song over and over again.

Raff Sangiorgio is an Italian heavy metal guitarist, best known for being the co-founder of the progressive death metal band GORY BLISTER, who has released 6 albums during the years. In 2015 Raff started to work on an instrumental guitar album, and now it's done.

Release date: March 26, 2016 (Sliptrick Records) MARCH 24, 2016

DEMONSTEALER: This Burden Is Mine - Album

Indian man Sahil Makhija (DEMONIC RESURRECTION, REPTILIAN DEATH) team up with the Greek man George Kollias from NILE to create an ambitious album, filled with epic, progressive and thrashy death metal. It's said to be something for fans of FLESHGOD APOCALYPSE, NILE, ADE and BEHEMOTH.

This is definitely not just another death metal album, because there's so much more involved here. I think it's better to just call it progressive metal (but o.k., that doesn't say much). There's both faster and harder stuff on this album, as well as more melodic and a bit softer stuff. Everything is good though.

This is really something that you have to check out to understand how good it really is. So do that.

Release date: March 25, 2016 (Independent)

demonstealer.com^[31] MARCH 23, 2016

HORRIFIED: Of Despair - Album

It's said that while the debut was raw death metal like AUTOPSY and PESTILENCE, this album has its roots in the Swedish black and death metal scene, with bands like DISSECTION, UNANIMATED and SACRAMENTUM. But they're not from Sweden or from Scandinavia. It's actually a British band.

To me this sounds like good old Swedish death metal with those good guitar melodies that you should be familiar with. In other words really good stuff that you just have to check out.

Release date: March 25, 2016 (Stormspell Records)

facebook.com/HorrifiedUK^[32]

MARCH 23, 2016



CALIBAN: Gravity - Album

"Gravity" is said to be darker and heavier, but there's melodies and more melodic

vocals too. The music is still mainly hardcore/metal though, so don't worry about any bigger changes. Most songs are good on this album, so I'm not going to mention any titles here. But for some reason I feel that this kind of music is o.k. to listen to at home once in a while (when I get it for review for example), but I'm not so sure that I would want to see a band like this live. It's probably a very explosive show and a lot of action, but listen to this for about an hour when I want to have fun would probably be too much for me. I'm full after these 12 tracks.

Guest apperances by Jamie Graham (HEART OF A COWARD) and Alissa White-Gluz (ARCH ENEMY), as well as Marcel Gadacz and Zachary Britt (DREAM ON DREAMER).

Relrease date: March 25, 2016 (Century Media^[33])

calibanmetal.com^[34] MARCH 22, 2016

FAKE MOSS: Under The Great Black Sky - Album

To me it's a thin line between goth rock and zynth pop. FAKE MOSS are on that line. And when you're walking on that line, it's always a question if it actually will fit in on this site. And fact is that the only time I listen to this kind of music is when somebody send it for review.

The music is pretty dark. Some songs actually reminds me a little of that song "Tainted Love" (by SOFT CELL among others if I'm not totally wrong), and some stuff is more like a electric/zynth version of The CULT.

No, this is probably not the right stuff for Hard Rock Info.

Release date: March 25, 2016

fakemoss.net^[35] MARCH 21, 2016

KEKRONON KEKERO

SPLIT HEAVEN: Death Rider - Album

SPLIT HEAVEN comes from Mexico and play good old power/heavy metal. On this album they have a new singer: Jason Conde-Houston (SKELATOR), who comes from Seattle.

They have a couple of really good songs here. There's no doubt about that. But I don't really like that thing that the drummer is doing in almost every song (hard to explain here though). If he would do it in 1 or 2 songs, then I wouldn't have had any problem with it. I don't know what drums he's using for it (probably some kind of smaller), but it sounds terrible. I guess he has a little too many drums to play with.

But except for that they're all doing a good job. You get 10 tracks in approximately 49 minutes. 8 in English and 2 in Spanish.

Release date: March 25, 2016 (Pure Steel Records^[36]) splitheaven.net^[37]

MARCH 21, 2016

WITHIN DESTRUCTION: Void - Album

Very hard and male technical death metal from Slovenia. Really brutal and intense stuff. They're like an unpredictable force that rape your soul. No, this is not how I want my death metal to sound like. This is just too much for me. It doesn't matter how good they are at playing when it's just a hell of a noise.

The only song I like a little is "Desecration Of The Elapsed". The rest is mainly ear torture. But people who like extreme grindcore noise might like this shit.

Bye, bye from my computer.

(Rising Nemesis Records^[38])

facebook.com/WithinDestructionSlo^[39]

MARCH 20, 2016

TORTURE RACK: Barbaric Persecution - Album

From Portland, U.S.A. comes this death metal band, which is said to fit those who like bands like AUTOPSY, CANNIBAL CORPSE, ROTTREVORE and similar stuff. It's fast and intense, brutal and heavy, and all that. But somehow I feel like I've heard more interesting death metal bands in my life. It's not really bad though. It's probably just me. So I think you should give it a try instead of listening to what I have to say about this.

(Memento Mori Records) *MARCH 20, 2016*

SINDROME: Resurrection, The Complete Collection - Double album

I don't have that much information about this band, but they seems to be from Chicago, and played classic death/thrash metal. What we have here is their first official release, featuring their 2 demo tapes "Into The Halls Of Extermination" (1987; including the lost track "Brought To The End") and "Vault Of Inner Conscience" (1991), as well as a full (bootleg recorded) concert (including the unreleased tracks "Surround The Prisoner" and "Psychic Warfare"). In other words, everything you need with this band.

The sound quality on the live tracks is so bad that you probably won't listen to them more than once. It was most likely recorded by somebody in the audience. The studio recordings are not bad though.

(Century Media^[40]) *MARCH 20, 2016*

RAGESTORM: The Thin Line Between Hope And Ruin - Album

It's always cool to start the record with a chainsaw, isn't it? Shit like "Interlude Hari Seldon's Speech (featuring The BOYLERZ)" is never cool though. And definitely <u>NOT</u> metal at all.

RAGESTORM is a death metal band that was formed in 2004. On this album we get 11 tracks, and most of them sounds good enough for me. They are hardly the fastest or heaviest band in this genre. I hear much melody in their songs, and I would almost like to call this melodic death metal, or at least thrash/death metal.

This is something that I think you should try anyway.

(Sliptrick Records)

facebook.com/ragestormofficial^[41] MARCH 20, 2016

POST-MORTEM: God With Horns - Album

It seems like this French death metal band have been around for 20 years already (formed in 1995). It's said that it will tempt fans of HOUR OF PENANCE, BEHEMOTH, VADER and AFFLICTION GATE. And they're not afraid to combine old and new ingredients.

They might not be the best band that I've heard, but it's definitely not bad. They have their bright moments. That's for sure. So why not check them out?

(Great Dane Records)

MARCH 20, 2016

FLESHGORE: Denial Of The Scriptures - Album

Have you ever wondered what it would sound like if the cookie monster sang in a brutal death metal band? Probably not, but this might actually be the answer. This is the fifth album by this band, who comes from Ukraine. And I guess it can be a nice album if you like noise. Otherwise you should avoid this.

It's o.k. to call me an old fart or weak, but this is actually too brutal for me. But you might be much cooler and stronger, and you might actually like stuff like this, and then you should check it out of course, no matter what I think about it.

(Xtreem Music^[42])

facebook.com/FleshgoreOfficial^[43]

MARCH 20, 2016



DAEMONA: The Demon Inside - Single

You could think that a review of just 1 song can't be that hard to write. But when I listen to this, all I can say is that it's pretty brutal death metal. In through 1 ear and out through the other, and blown away on the way. It's a o.k. song for as long as it last (4 minutes), but far away from the best I've ever heard.

DAEMONA is a British band. Their music is an extreme and intense mixture of old

and new death metal. (Self released) *MARCH 20, 2016*

AMONG THE PREY: Only For The Blinded Eyes - Album

Finnish melodic death metal band formed in 2013. This is their debut album. The members have previously played in groups like THUNDERSTONE, AGONIZER and BEFORE THE DAWN. Nothing that I have heard as far as I can remember, but this sounds really good anyway, even though I have heard the exactly same thing a couple of times before and the variation between the songs are not that big.

(Inverse Records^[44]) *MARCH 20, 2016*

CARNAC: The Frail Sight - EP

Modern death metal from Turkey, with influences from bands like GOJIRA, OPETH, AT THE GATES and ENSLAVED.

Yet another record I've been listening to a couple of times, but can't come up with that much else to say than that it sounds pretty good.

Give them a chance. You might actually like it.

(Sliptrick Records)

facebook.com/carnacband^[45]

MARCH 20, 2016

BONAFIDE featuring Ralf Gyllenhammar: Michelangelo - Single

Ha, ha. Cool!

This song was originally done by Swedish legend Björn Skifs (you might have heard "Hooked On A Feeling" sometime?) at the outtakes for the Eurovision Song Contest in 1975. Then it was sung in Swedish, but here we get the song in English, which not too many have heard before.

Swedish hard rock n roll band BONAFIDE is doing this song as a duet with MUSTASCH frontman Ralf Gyllenhammar, and they're doing it very good actually. I can hardly say that I'm a fan of Björn Skifs (not really my kind of music), but there's definitely worse artists in this country.

(Off Yer Rocka Recordings)

bonafiderocks.com^[46]

MARCH 18, 2016

ELECTRIC HAZE: Electric Haze - Digital album

6 songs with a young and hungry band from northern Sweden (is that really enough

to call it a album? It's digital times, so everything changes). Not bad. I guess we can describe it as classic 70s/80s rock. They seems to know how to make good songs anyway.

This is their debut album. And if they continue to make such good songs as this, then it can be interesting to hear what they will come up with next time. That's for sure. Release date: March 18, 2016 (Self released?)

facebook.com/electrichazemusic^[47] MARCH 17, 2016

CASTLE FREAK: Human Hive - EP (Digital, Cassette)

All those samples before every damned song is just irritating. Stop that shit! What we get here is 5 tracks of what they call "disgusting death metal". Pretty noisey, which gives it a touch of crust punk. 2 tracks are new, 2 tracks are re-recordings and 1 track is a IMPETIGO cover.

They have released 1 EP before this one, and I think they should continue with that format, because 5 songs is definitely enough of this for me.

Release date: March 18, 2016 (Self released)

MARCH 17, 2016

ECLIPSE: Armageddonize (Deluxe Edition) - Double album

Well, this is how you do when you want to get even more cash from a album. What we get here is nothing else but the finest melodic hard rock from Sweden that you can get. If you don't like this, then you obviously don't even like melodic hard rock.

Except for the album you also get a live recording, 2 bonus tracks and 3 acoustic songs. This means that you get the chance to hear some of the songs 2-3 times in different versions.

My favorites with this band are (and will probably always be) the first songs I heard with them: "Bleed & Scream" and the best of them all "Come Hell Or High Water". Those songs are luckily included here (it would have been pretty stupid to not include such good songs). But so far I haven't heard a bad song with ECLIPSE. Do you think I regret that I didn't check them out when they played live in Göteborg a couple of weeks ago? You bet! But there's so many other concerts to go to..

Release date: March 18, 2016 (Frontiers Music srl^[48])

www.eclipsemania.com^[49]

MARCH 16, 2016

Joe Lynn Turner: Street Of Dreams, Boston 1985 - Album

After being the singer for RAINBOW, Joe Lynn Turner started his solo career. He released his first solo album, "Rescue You", and went on tour. And as you probably

have figured out already, this recording is taken from 1 of those shows (in Boston as the album title says). Most of the songs comes from his album, but there's also a couple of RAINBOW songs included in the setlist.

It all sounds good, even though most of the material is more or less just pale copies of his time in RAINBOW. But there's also a couple of songs that I would describe as funk. The only thing I have to complain about is the guitar solo (but I guess he has to rest his voice and let the guitarist play hero for a little while) and that "Yeah!" and jamming in some of the songs.

Mr. Turner has also done short sessions for Yngwie Malmsteen and DEEP PURPLE among others.

(Cleopatra Records^[50])

joelynnturner.com^[51]

MARCH 15, 2016

BESEECH: My Darkness, Darkness - Album

Local band BESEECH are back after being gone for a couple of years. Today's lineup consist of Klas Bohlin (vocals), Angelina Sahlgren Söder (vocals), Robert Vintervind (guitar), Manne Engström (guitar), Johan Örnborg (bass) and Håkan Carlsson (drums).

This is their sixth album, and what we get is some kind of melancholy goth rock with dark lyrics.

I can just as well admit at once, that even though this band are from Borås (where I live), I haven't paid much attention to them before. So I can't compare this album with their earlier material. But I think it sounds pretty o.k. anyway, so I guess it can be worth checking out if you like more melancholy stuff.

(Despotz Records^[52])

www.beseech.se^[53]

MARCH 14, 2016

WISHING WELL: Chasing Rainbows - Album

Debut album from these Finnish hard rockers. They blend various styles, everything from melodic hard rock to doom metal, as well as power metal and a ballad. But we can say that it's mainly classic hard rock and heavy metal from the 70s and 80s. So if you like that, this could really be worth a try, because there's many good songs on this product that deserves to be heard by more people.

(Inverse Records^[54])

facebook.com/wishingwell2016^[55] *MARCH 14, 2016*

Martina Edoff: Unity - Album

Sounds like some kind of melodic 80s rock (or hard pop as we used to call it). Possibly in the same league as the more soft 80s stuff with EUROPE. It's really good though, so I have nothing to complain about.

This album would probably have done big succees if it was released in the 80s (at least here in Sweden), because she got plenty of good songs here. But there's still people who like this kind of rock, so hopefully they will check this out and give it a chance, because it's definitely worth some attention.

(MRM Production^[56])

www.martinaedoff.com^[57]

MARCH 13, 2016

ILEKKAAAA MILEKKAAAAA

NEST: Nest - Album

This band grinds on the same riffs for a little too long. Not much happens during the 4.56 to 10.22 minutes that these 5 songs last. It's actually a little boring most of the time because of that. But once in a while there actually is a little more action too. So I guess it's not totally hopeless after all.

NEST is described as a primitive doom/sludge trio from Stockholm, Sweden who started in 2011. This is their first record.

For those who like it heavy.

(Tribunal Of The Axe Records^[58])

facebook.com/Nest-195937060454644^[59]

MARCH 12, 2016

DESERT DRAGON: Before The Storm - Album

Progressive rock/hard rock/melodic metal from Los Angeles, California, with influences from legends like PINK FLOYD, LED ZEPPELIN, Jeff Beck and George Lynch, as well as more modern bands like OPETH, DREAM THEATER, CHEVELLE and AVANGED SEVENFOLD. So if that sounds like something that you would like, then I think you should listen to this band, because they're not bad at all. Well, anybody who like melodic hard rock should check this out actually.

"Take It Easy Now" and "Flying High" is a little extra good. (Sliptrick Records)

desertdragonofficial.com^[60] MARCH 11, 2016

VREDEHAMMER: Violator - Album

Here comes the second album from this Norwegian band. And it's said to be their heaviest and most powerful release yet. I would like to call this extreme metal with

the roots in black metal. It's definitely a hard and heavy, but yet brutal, metal album anyway.

All 7 songs are good, but my favorites must be the first and the last songs: "Light The Fucking Sky" and "Blodhevn".

This is definitely something that you should check out.

Release date: March 18, 2016 (Indie Recordings)

MARCH 10, 2016

HYBERNOID: The Last Day Begins? - Double Album

Those instrumental dance songs towards the end on the first record are totally useless. They all sound the same to me. And the rest of the material isn't that much to sing hooray for either. Some kind of heavy and gothic alternative rock, or however I should describe it. But sometimes, like in "Hybernoid", it's actually metal. That doesn't help much though. I simply don't like this band. Enough said.

This is a reissue of this British band's first album from 1994, including a lot of bonus material like demos and EPs, as well as some rare and previously unreleased stuff. The music is described as doom/death/industrial.

(Xtreem Music^[61])

facebook.com/Hybernoid^[62] MARCH 9, 2016

JESSIKILL: Metal Knights - EP

If you call the record "Metal Knights", then I expect you to live up to that. At once! And then I don't want to hear a useless keyboard intro instead of true metal.

I get what I want after that though. And they seems to be really good at what they're doing. Which is female-fronted heavy metal. No opera singing and symphonic stuff here. Just classic heavy metal the way it was supposed to be. And that's good enough for me.

JESSIKILL comes from San Antonio, Texas, and this is their first release. It could be interesting to hear some more of this band.

MARCH 8, 2016

ZIPPO: After Us - Album

Now here's a funny dude that said that the release date would be December 3, 2016. I pretty soon figured out that the release date must be March 12 though. But in the info sheet they say February. Very confusing. Don't drink on the job! Ha, ha. When I listen to this band, words like psychedelic, heavy riffs, stoner rock, prog rock comes to my mind. Fact is that this is a mixture of many different ingredients, but it's mainly something that we could call psychedelic, progressive stoner rock. The riff masters ZIPPO was born in Italy in 2004. "After Us" is their fourth album, which probably just God knows when it actually will be (or was) released. Release date: March 12, 2016 (Apocalyptic Witchcraft) *MARCH 7, 2016*

LOUD 'N' PROUD: Loud N Proud - Demo

I went to a after party with these guys. Not much of a party though, as they didn't have that much to drink. So I got tired of it pretty soon. But before I left, they gave me this CD. A 3-track demo with classic hard rock/heavy metal that is over in about 12 and a half minutes. And it doesn't sound bad at all, so let's give it a try.

I can't come up with much else to say about this right now..

(Self released)

facebook.com/loudnproudswe^[63] MARCH 6, 2016

TROUBLEMAKERS, The BABOON SHOW and DALAPLAN at Pustervik in Göteborg,

Sweden on March 4, 2016^[64] MARCH 5, 2016

CAMEL OF DOOM: Terrestrial - Album

The first song, "Cycles (The Anguish Of Anger)", is 13 minutes long. But there's shorter tracks too, who are just 1-1.30 minutes, but most songs are between 11.46 to 14 minutes. So it takes a while to listen to these 8 tracks.

CAMEL OF DOOM is a band from UK, and their style is described as experimental doom metal. Which means that it's actually more than just simple doom involved here. It's a little like an adventure actually. There's heaviness, but at the same time also some kind of atmosphere. A little spaced out once in a while too.

But that doesn't necessarily mean that they're always the most entertaining band. But if you think this could be something that you would like, why not give it a try?

(Solitude Productions^[65])

facebook.com/camelofdoom^[66] MARCH 4, 2016

ABADDON: Son Of Hell - EP

Another "obscure" band from India. These 4 guys comes from Bengalore and play what is easiest described as occult thrash metal in the 80s way. The music might be simple, but it's still filled with charm and passion for old school metal.

5 tracks is what we get, and it sounds more like a demo than a "real" EP to me. But it's a very good demo, so why complain about small details like that?

I think you should give this a chance. Especially if you're into old school thrash metal

and VENOM. (Self released) *MARCH 3, 2016*

APATHY NOIR: Across Dark Waters - Album

This is a Swedish progressive death/doom duo, with Viktor Jonas on all instruments and Vidar Wetterhall on vocals and lyrics. This is their third record, which is filled with progressive and atmospheric soundscapes and depressive lyrics. Pretty dark metal actually. And the songs are pretty long as well. Between 6.47 to 10.31 minutes. If you like it soft and heavy, this could be something for you. If I must compare them with a other band, then I would say OPETH actually.

Although there's just 7 songs, the album is very long.

(Artnoir Productions)

facebook.com/Apathy-Noir^[67] MARCH 3, 2016

ATRAMENT: Eternal Downfall - Album

When I first saw the artwork for this record, I thought it would be very dark and heavy, because there isn't much sunshine there. And sure it's dark music that we get here, but it sounds more like a crust punk/death metal mixture to me. And I expected doom or sludge. But I like this, so that's definitely not a problem.

This is the first record from this Oakland, California-based group, who are said to be this generation's answer to the classic Swedish and British d-beat crust, Norwegian black metal and Gothenburg death metal from the 90s. So if that sounds interesting, then you really should give them a try.

Release date: March 4, 2016 (Broken Limbs/Argento Records/Sentient Ruin Laboratories)

MARCH 2, 2016

CENTIPEDE: Sarnath - Album

Debut album from this stoner metal trio, who comes from Helsinki, Finland and formed in 2011. It's a mixture of stoner, sludge, thrash and Iommi riffs, with inspiration from bands like HIGH ON FIRE, MASTODON, WEEDEATER, The MELVINS, BLACK SABBATH and METALLICA.

"Sarnath" will be released digitally, but there will be a small batch of CDs. And with the record release a 2-song 12" vinyl single will be released, that comes with a download code for the whole album.

Worth checking out.

Release date: March 4, 2016 (Inverse Records^[68])

centipede.bandcamp.com^[69]

MARCH 2, 2016

WEHERMACHT: Shark Attack - Album

Yet another recording that sounds like a demo recorded live in somebody's garage or basement. And yet another band who play old school thrash metal. But while most of the other bands in this genre are good, this band is actually not so good. It doesn't suck, but there's so many better bands that you can check out instead of this. And crap like "Puke" might be very funny when you're a drunk teenager, but it's not so funny for people who are older than that and have their brain activated.

But if some teenagers without that much intelligence, who just wants to play as fast as possible, sounds like something that you would like, then I won't stop you. That's your problem. After all, I'm just an old fart that was born before thrash even existed. *MARCH 1, 2016*

ZAFAKON: Release - Album

What a silly album title.

The music that this San Juan, Puerto Rico-based group deliver is hardly something silly though. We talk old-school Bay Area thrash metal with a touch of death metal rawness baked in. Total aggression in other words.

The album was mixed and mastered by legendary producer Andy Classen (DESTRUCTION, TANKARD, BELPHEGOR). So it's not a shit product but high quality. This is something that I think you should support instead of listening to VOLBEAT. The only thing I could complain about is that the last song, the title track, is over 9 minutes long and pretty heavy.

facebook.com/zafakon^[70]

MARCH 1, 2016

SLAP BETTY: Nothing Out Of Nothing - Album

What do you mean with "slap Betty"? Are you beating up women you weak bastard? This is the second album from this Finnish band, who play what I would describe as action rock. They formed in 2007, and some of their qualifications is that they have accidentally cut down electricity from BACKYARD BABIES, been in a car accident on their way to take a picture with Santa, and visited the Finnish Official Chart with their debut album, "94720" (2013). And if that wasn't enough, it's also said that their guitarist is usually lost (the last note of him at the moment is from Russia). A typical Finnish rock n roll band?

They have made a really good album anyway. So why not check it out? (they forgot to tell me the release date, but if it isn't out yet, it will probably be released pretty soon).

(Inverse Records^[71])

slapbetty.com^[72] MARCH 1, 2016

CURSE/STYGGELSE/WAN: Necroholic - 3-way split album

3 bands share the space on this record, and they are more or less into the same kind of in-your-face monster metal (as I call it). They might not give you the sweetiest melodies, but if you're angry, this will probably make you happy again.

This is straight in your face dirty old school black metal, filled with attitude. All 3

bands comes from Scandinavia. CURSE are from Iceland, while STYGGELSE and WAN are from Sweden.

CURSE is the first band out with 4 tracks. After that comes STYGGELSE with 3 songs. And last but not least is WAN with 5 melodies.

Pretty o.k. stuff, but I have definitely heard better.

(Satanath Records/Black Plague Records/The True Plague)

facebook.com/cursefaen^[73] facebook.com/STYGGELSE-10469669108/?ref=br_rs^[74]

facebook.com/theunholywan^[75]

MARCH 1, 2016

SUICIDE BY TIGERS: Suicide By Tigers - Album

Bluesy and a bit psychedelic rock like it was done in the 70s. Yes, we have heard it so many times before, but most bands seems to be good, so why complain? And SUICIDE BY TIGERS are another one of those good bands, so this album is of course worth checking out if you like that style.

SUICIDE BY TIGERS comes from southern Sweden and formed in 2012. This is their first album, and it's a very strong debut that I think you should check out.

(Smilodon Records^[76])

www.suicidebytigers.com^[77] MARCH 1, 2016

Rick Springfield: Rocket Science - Album

This is the 18th studio album by this Australian man, but have I ever heard him before? Probably. But that must have been in the stone age then. And this album doesn't really make me more interested in his adventures. 25 million albums sold, 17 U.S. top-40 hits and a Grammy sounds nice, but when the music isn't more interesting than this, I just don't care about what he have succeeded with (and it was probably many years since he had any bigger succees last time, at least outside of Australia).

But if you think a mixture of melodic pop, rock and country sounds exiting, why not give it a try? Otherwise I think you better avoid this actually.

(Frontiers Music srl^[78]) *MARCH 1, 2016*

PROGGS: Våld På Öppen Gata - Single

Here's a Swedish band who does covers of classic Swedish prog rock bands from the 70s. They have previously released 2 singles, which was just like this song originally made by the legendary band NATIONALTEATERN. I just have a 2-CD collection with that band, and this song is not included there, so I don't think I have heard it before. But they are surely doing a great job, even though it doesn't sound like one of the best songs with NATIONALTEATERN. It's not a bad song though, so this could probably be worth checking out.

(Cramada Records^[79])



MIASMAL: Tides Of Omniscience - Album



This is the third full length from these Swedish death metallers, and they're still a damned good band. There's no doubt about that. So if you liked their previous records, I can't see why you wouldn't like this too.

It's a hard and brutal album, but yet dynamic. It's never too brutal though. There's always a good melody, no matter how fast and aggressive it might be.

I actually think that if this album would have been released in the early 90s, it could have been 1 of those Swedish classics that everybody seems to like.

Release date: March 4, 2016 (Century Media^[80]) miasmal.net^[81] *MARCH 1, 2016*

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