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# POWERPLAY

## ROCK & METAL MAGAZINE

**THE DARKNESS**  
Court controversy  
by cancelling Easter!



New album 'Walk The Sky' brings them one step closer to finally fulfilling their destiny as major festival headliners.

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**LACUNA COIL OPETH DRAGONFORCE LEE AARON WEDNESDAY 13**  
**ROBERT TEPPER ELVENKING KRIS BARRAS THE DEFIANTS**  
**SAMANTHA FISH DANNY BRYANT MASTERS OF CEREMONY MARS RED SKY TRANSPORT LEAGUE**

haunting vocal delivery that sends shivers down my spine and is accompanied by some fine guitar work throughout, which sets the benchmark for the rest of the album. 'Smoking Gun' has a marvellous blues swagger to it and is one of my favourite tracks, as is 'Night Child' which could quite easily be an outtake from any Blues Pills release with exceptional vocal gymnastics once again from Marissa. But it has to be 'Not Ours To Own' that stands out as their defining moment, with its constant change of pace, soulful guitar and Marissa once again nailing it with her amazing vocal talent. Great Stuff.

POWERPOINTS: ①②③④⑤⑥⑦⑧ **ANDY TAYLOR**

### SOUNDTRUCK

'Voodoo'  
Southern Rock/Hard Rock/Classic Rock  
Independent Release



Greek rock band Soundtruck have been around for more than ten years. They made their debut album and opened for band influence Lynyrd Skynyrd in 2012 and just as the debut received great reviews, this album deserves nothing less.

Opener and serious toe-tapper 'Seniorita' is pure southern rock, swaggering and swaying with classic riffs, gritty vocal and a sing-along chorus. 'Heading Your Way' is at the harder end of the genre with a deep dirty riff and a Black Stone Cherry "whoa" chorus. (see also, 'That Lady' - very 'on trend'). 'The Wind Is Blowing' hits the highway in a more classic (think The Outlaws) style, then the delightful, radio-friendly 'Time To Change' closes the square. It's gentler, beautifully sung by Romanos Alexander and has a breathtaking Slash-style solo smack bang in the centre of it. At just over six minutes, 'Voodoo Woman' allows the band some space to let us explore their sound. It's more classic than southern rock: a long, stoner intro breaks into a Sabbath-esque riff and meanders menacingly while Romanos pleads for mercy. We then mellow out with the bluesy 'Stay' which should surely be a single. 'The Calling' is simply glorious and sees the return of the southern swagger and then the second epic of the album (just under six minutes) is closer 'The Train' which is pure outlaw rock, superbly delivered and ends the album appropriately - we rocked in, we rolled out and we're sitting on the train to the next masterpiece.

Soundtruck offer a broad genre, cover it all in one album and make it stick together coherently. Outstanding, boys - now please tour it in the UK.

POWERPOINTS: ①②③④⑤⑥⑦⑧⑨⑩ **Ms D**

### DRUKNROLL

'Doomed Love'  
Melodic Death Metal  
Metal Scrap



This Russian act has a plethora of releases spanning the last decade or so and they see fit to give us a taster of their forthcoming sixth full-length which I'll be very keen to hear based on what they offer on this three-track EP.

The soft strains that initiate 'I Multiply The Pain' hint at a hard rock stance, only for surging symphonics to burst forth, constructing a symphonic deathliness tempered by tempo shifts and some very catchy guitar riffs. Whilst the underlying genre is melodic death metal, the band throws in a raft of other styles, as thrashing riffs go hand in hand with the crunching double bass; there's even heavy metal fretboard scorching on the lead breaks. This bunch have a schizoid approach to their song writing, linking in symphonic elements with the brutal drumming style, which has an awesome sound, I might add. Of the three songs 'Destruction Inside' gets the vote, as it starts with a borderline crust riff before rocketing the pace with half-blasted components that are spliced with clean vocals, creating an almost epic

constituency. If you want to hear something a bit different from the Motherland then be sure to investigate this quality act.

POWERPOINTS: ①②③④⑤⑥⑦⑧ **MARTIN HARRIS**

### WINTERFYLLETH

'The Siege Of Mercia'  
Black Metal  
Independent Release



Over the years I've never been super impressed with Winterfylleth in the live setting. Sure, they've made some excellent albums, but the things I enjoyed about them never seemed to translate well to the stage. However, that being said, this live album packs a formidable punch and is full of energy. Recorded on the main stage at Bloodstock in 2017, 'The Siege Of Mercia' does exactly what a live album should do - it gives you a real taste of being there that night. It has something which studio albums don't, a fire that can only be captured by a live performance. I'm far more impressed by this album than I expected to be and all Winterfylleth fans should definitely add it to their shopping lists immediately.

POWERPOINTS: ①②③④⑤⑥⑦⑧ **CHRIS KEE**

### SOREN ANDERSEN

'Guilty Pleasures'  
Instrumental  
Mighty Music



Soren Andersen isn't a name I was familiar with, but he is best known as a guitarist for Glenn Hughes. This is his debut album, and it is an all-instrumental affair very much in the style of Joe Satriani and Steve Vai.

There's a definite 80s feel to the album; it's very bright, very melodic and Soren plays incredibly throughout. The album opens with 'City of Angels', a good up-tempo piece in a similar style to 'The Extremist'. The album isn't a complete shredfest. Soren slows things down nicely for 'Satori', gets all funky on 'Agent Wells', and it makes for a good, varied album. Personal favourite would have to be '1983' which reminds me of the kind of thing you heard on 80s movie soundtracks.

All in all, this is an album from Soren Andersen. If you enjoyed 'Passion And Warfare' or 'The Extremist', you should definitely enjoy this.

POWERPOINTS: ①②③④⑤⑥⑦⑧ **MARTIN HOWELL**

### CAPRICORN

'Soul Engine'  
Hard Rock  
Can You Smell It



The hard-rocking Swedish four-piece that is Capricorn have unleashed their debut album, which could be considered compact at only nine tracks. It has a classic sound, but also has an element of modernity thanks to the face melting riffage, funky bass

lines and brattish vocals. To be fair, there are many bands around at the moment who have this particular style and sound, so let's not pretend that Capricorn are breaking any musical ground. Having said that, you have to admire a bunch of musicians that can manage to create a sound like a cross between Black Sabbath and Damn Dice.

The most dated track (and my least favourite) is '(Fight) Another Day'; one of my favourites is the almost ballad 'Solid Ground'. Everything else is... okay (and check out the acoustic licks in the middle of 'Wildfire' - if

that wasn't influenced by Led Zeppelin, then I may as well hang up my pen).

Overall this isn't a bad debut, although I feel that Capricorn need to inject some more substance into their songs and really own their style, but this is still worth a listen.

POWERPOINTS: ①②③④⑤⑥⑦ **VIKKIE RICHMOND**

### MIGHTY THOR

'Ragnarok'  
Symphonic Power Metal  
Independent Release



Mighty Thor are a Mexican sextet seemingly thoroughly taken by the myths and legends of "the Nordic people" - basically they want to be Vikings. So, here we have 'Ragnarok', not heavy metal as they deem themselves to be, but unashamed symphonic power metal which, if not for the Spanish lyrics, any sane rock fan would assume came from the land of ice and fire. Keen to 'out-symphonic' their northern brethren, each band member appears to have taken a kitchen sink along to the studio, such is the plethora of sound being thrown into the mix... and a pretty good fist they make of it, too: powerhouse, 100mph drumming, sawing guitar chords and soaring solos, sweeping keyboards, choirs, orchestras, even a recorder at one point and screaming, layered vocals.

To an English speaking audience, an album with non-English lyrics is always a questionable experience, however good the music. There is another issue here for Anglo Saxon ears though, the ballads. Totally out of context musically is 'Mi Refugio' which to me just sounds like an overblown Eurovision song contest entry and so does the following track 'Luz De Azgard', albeit with more rocked up music.

This is a beautifully produced album with a lot of variety and differing pace for its style which I would mark highly were I a Spanish speaker... and if those two hideous tracks were consigned to the trash bin.

POWERPOINTS: ①②③④⑤⑥ **TIM DELANY**

### PHIL CAMPBELL

'Old Lions Still Roar'  
Hard Rock  
Nuclear Blast



You would have to go a long way to find a bigger legend that is still tearing the rock world a new one than the one and only Phil Campbell. Whilst other, lesser musicians are kicking back and easing into retirement, Campbell, along with The Bastard Sons, is still lighting up venues and festival stages around the country with the best of them. His solo album is a marvellous surprise, featuring collaborations with the crème de la crème of the rock world.

The first track is a semi-acoustic, introspective yet uplifting affair, featuring Leon Stanford, formerly of The People The Poet. Featuring a smattering of slide guitar, this was a great pick for the intro, with Stanford's gritty vocals complementing a bluesy style. Rob Halford is the next bona fide rock God to feature on vocals in the unmistakably Campbell-esque 'Straight Up', with an uncharacteristically downplayed performance. Of course, the really great thing about this album is that there are plenty of soaring licks and riffs, solid, stompy drums and the odd bit of cowbell to keep us old-schoolers happy.

Featuring appearances from Alice Cooper, Nick Oliveri, Dee Snider and Whitfield Crane amongst others, this is a classic rock album that feels bang up to date and I think it's a testament to how well respected Campbell is for him to have been able to marshal such a first class rabble of rock royalty to collaborate on it. It's been firmly on repeat ever since I first heard it (I'm sure my new neighbours