



MICHAEL ROMEO
WAR OF THE WORLDS PT 1
MASCOT RECORDS

Michael Romeo is best known as the guitarist, chief songwriter and all-around main man behind the progressive rock titans **Symphony X**, whose daring mix of neoclassical shred, orchestral textures and wildly elaborate concept pieces has placed the band at the forefront of new metal thrill seekers. The release of his new solo album, **War of the Worlds, Part I**, should further his reputation as one of the world's preeminent guitarists and composers of adventurous prog-rock. An ambitious 10-song set, it blends bracing classic metal with textures that pay homage to film score giants Bernard Hermann and John Williams.



OTEP
KULT 45
NAPALM RECORDS

On **Kult 45**, **Otep** expertly fuses aggressive and pervasive metal molotovs, imbued with eruptive rapcore that captivates the mind and body with social enlightenment. On "Halt Right" and "Molotov," **Otep** thrashes out with brute force and skillful pun, clearly calling out against the return of odiferous hate groups. With the emotionally charged "Shelter In Place" **Otep** speaks out against school shootings and gun violence. Later the album segues to a beautiful ballad called "Be Brave" that seductively beckons listeners to abandon their comfort zones and go after their dreams. The most authentic record **Otep** has ever released closes out with a fitting cover of the Rage Against The Machine classic "Wake Up."



DEE SNIDER
FOR THE LOVE OF METAL
NAPALM RECORDS

Influential hard rock legend **Dee Snider**, the face and voice of the legendary **Twisted Sister** is back with **For The Love Of Metal** - produced by **Hatebreed** vocalist **Jamey Jasta** and featuring contributions from **Howard Jones (Killswitch Engage)**, **Mark Morton (Lamb Of God)**, **Alissa White-Gluz (Arch Enemy)**, **Joel Grind and Nick Bellmore (Toxic Holocaust)** and **Charlie Bellmore (Kingdom Of Sorrow)**. "This is a really incredibly exciting album that I did not expect to make," **Snider** explains. "Jamey Jasta challenged me to make a contemporary rock record and I rose to the challenge!" The result is a master class in full-on anthemic metal. One of the most powerful voices in rock and heavy metal history is back and more ferocious than ever!



DEAFHEAVEN
ORDINARY CORRUPT HUMAN LOVE
ANTI

Defeat has inspired some of our best art. If you're an artist, this kind of new self-knowledge can lead to creating something universal and remembered, something that can live longer than you do. While **Deafheaven** have managed to cross over this road in the past, they've nailed the feeling wholly with **Ordinary Corrupt Human Love**, a feeling that comes with experience and wisdom. Yes, everybody deals with hurt, everybody's been the cause of their own implosions, and everybody has the capacity to overcome and love again. **Deafheaven** have found a way to externalize all of this, and in making their most complete record to date, they turn it into a balm and a cathartic exorcism.



BLACK FAST
SPECTRE OF RUIN
EONE

Like its predecessor, **Black Fast's Spectre of Ruin** was summoned into sharp focus at Mana Studios in St. Petersburg, FL with **Erik Rutan**, the Hate Eternal frontman and ex-Morbid Angel guitarist who has produced albums by genre titans like Cannibal Corpse, Goatwhore, and Six Feet Under. It's all killer, no filler, demonstrating the destructive force of focused neo-thrash and progressive death-infused heavy metal at its finest. **Black Fast** follow the roadmap laid down by the great bands with "Angel" and "Death" in their names, swearing off the trappings of the mainstream with a steadfast dedication to their chosen craft. This music is a vibrant soundtrack to society's collapse and a celebration of defiant resolution.



BETWEEN THE BURIED AND ME
AUTOMATA II
SUMERIAN

What if dreams could be broadcast for the purpose of entertainment? Could you consume the innermost thoughts of another person on screen? If you could, what does that say about an attention-starved audience? More importantly, what would become of the dreamer? **Between The Buried and Me** pose those questions and more on their two-part **Automata**. The North Carolina quintet explores these themes by personally smashing boundaries once again. **Automata II** completes the band's first proper double LP-spanning concept. "These are uncharted waters for us," says guitarist Paul Waggoner. "Our music is dense and our albums are very long," says vocalist/keyboardist Tommy Rogers. "So we want to give people two separate moments to dive in this year and explore new music that we've put our entire being into."



ERRA
NEON
SUMERIAN RECORDS

ERRA is a five-piece progressive metalcore band hailing from Birmingham, Alabama that formed in 2009. Their namesake comes from Akkadian mythology and represents mayhem. The band, consisting of Jesse Cash, Sean Price, Alex Ballew, and JT Cavey, solidified their technical sound after relentlessly practicing and writing. They take their influences from well-respected groups like Misery Signals, Born of Osiris, As I Lay Dying and Saosin, and thrive on being creative and showcasing their talent through their intense live performances. **ERRA** takes great pleasure in offering their refreshing sound in a sometimes stale and over-saturated market. It's not about fashion or status - it's about using raw talent and energy to create genuine songs that will give hope to the listener.



OBSCURA
DILUVIUM
RELAPSE

Germany's progressive death metal masters **Obscura** complete their long-running, four-album conceptual circle with the release of **Diluvium** (defined as a great oceanic flood), their most evocative, diverse and vibrant collection to date. Recorded with longtime producer V. Santura (Triptykon, Pestilence) at Woodshed Studios in Landshut, Germany, **Diluvium** is a stunning achievement for the illustrious quartet and a landmark release for progressive metal as a whole. Complete with all the band's signature elements plus groundbreaking polyrhythms, dramatic songwriting, and jaw-dropping virtuosity, **Obscura** raise the bar once again with an album that will go down in the annals of metal history as one of the most astonishing performances the genre has to offer.



SKELETONWITCH
DEVOURING RADIANT LIGHT
PROSTHETIC RECORDS

Devouring Radiant Light is the fifth full length and first to feature vocalist Adam Clemans, who debuted with **Skeletonwitch** on the band's 2016 EP, **The Apothic Gloom**. It picks right up where the EP ended, mixing their classic blackened thrash attack with atmospheric, post rock soaring melodies. Once again recorded by Converge guitarist and engineering deity **Kurt Ballou** at GodCity Studio in Salem, MA, the band's rapport with the producer provided the familiarity necessary to embrace uncharted creative territory. Melodeath genre architect **Fredrik Nordström** (Opeth, At The Gates) mixed the album at Studio Fredman in Gothenburg, Sweden to massive results while the mastering was commandeered by **Brad Boatright** of metallic hardcore greats From Ashes Rise at Audiosiege Engineering in Portland, OR.



JUNGLE ROT
JUNGLE ROT
VICTORY

For a band celebrating 25 years, **Jungle Rot** is just hitting their prime with the release of their eponymous brainchild. "Old-school groove with attitude needed its boundaries pushed," states front-man/guitarist Dave Matrise. The album blasts off with "Send Forth Oblivion," an equivalent to stainless steel medical devices in your eardrum. Destruction's Schmier lends his shrieking throat on "Fearmonger," as Matrise lays down a counter-guttural growl lower than Dante's Gate of Hell. "Glory For The Fallen" shows bassist James Genz pounding away at his woofer as he explains the track was written for his close friend Jeff who was murdered last year. **Jungle Rot** closes out the album with their take of Kreator's 1987 classic "Terrible Certainty."



HALESTORM
VICIOUS
ATL

Since their inception in 1998, **Halestorm** have toured extensively with a diverse variety of artists, including Eric Church, Avenged Sevenfold, Alice Cooper, Rob Zombie, ZZ Top and Evanescence. The band scored a Grammy in 2013, and Lzzy was named the “Dimebag Darrell Shredder of the Year” at the Metal Hammer Golden Gods Awards in 2016. Today **Halestorm** exists as a beacon of hope and inspiration for musicians, particularly female musicians who want to brave the challenges of the music industry. Lzzy has been a pioneer in rock and proven that women have a place on the stage. **Halestorm’s** latest, **Vicious**, is aptly-named as the band are still as bloodthirsty as ever - hellbent on making the rawest rock in these weirdest of times.



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