



DRAGONFORCE
EXTREME POWER METAL
METAL BLADE

British cartoon metal extremists, **DragonForce**, are back with **Extreme Power Metal**. The album was produced in Los Angeles, California by Damien Rainaud at Mix Unlimited and also recorded, in part, on guitarist Herman Li's livestream channel on Twitch with participation from the fans. Li says, "This album again combines the best of **DragonForce** in an even bigger, more epic way than we have ever done before." Following the departure of Vadim Pruzhanov from the band in 2018, the keyboards of this new album were performed by Coen Janssen of symphonic metal titan, Epica, bringing a new dimension into a **DragonForce** album, in that it sounds even more like Queen trapped inside of a classic Nintendo game. And Iron Maiden or something.



BABYMETAL
METAL GALAXY
COOKING VINYL

Metal Galaxy is **Babymetal's** third album overall and first since 2016's *Metal Resistance*. **Metal Galaxy** also marks the band's first release with two singers instead of three, after Yuimetal left the fold to pursue a solo career. Vocalists Su-metal and Moametal remain, along with their backing band. Featuring the previously released songs "Distortion" and "Elevator Girl" plus the brand-new "Pa Pa Ya!," the album is about an odyssey **Babymetal** must take to the **Metal Galaxy**, a trajectory thrust upon them by the Fox God sending the band on a darker path. Each song brings them closer to their desired destination. Pairs well with DragonForce in terms of extremity, but **Babymetal** have hooks that can't be beat. And that bass sound is BRUTAL AF!



EXHUMED
HORROR
RELAPSE

Twenty-one years since their murderous debut, **Exhumed** rise once again with gore-obsessed death metal on their new brand new album, **Horror**. Aptly titled, **Horror** is an exploration of all things macabre, as the undisputed pioneers of neck-breaking riffs plow through 15 of the band's most intense tracks to date. Nightmares meet shred, as the speed-inducing track "Ravenous Cadavers" highlight **Exhumed's** penchant for blazing, face melting guitar work, while "Naked, Screaming and Covered in Blood" and "Playing With Fear" elevate the band to levels of grind unheard of since Gore Metal! **Horror** was recorded at **Exhumed's** home-built studio, Darker Corners, produced by the band and Alejandro Corredor (Brujeria, Nausea), and mixed / mastered by Joel Grind (Toxic Holocaust).



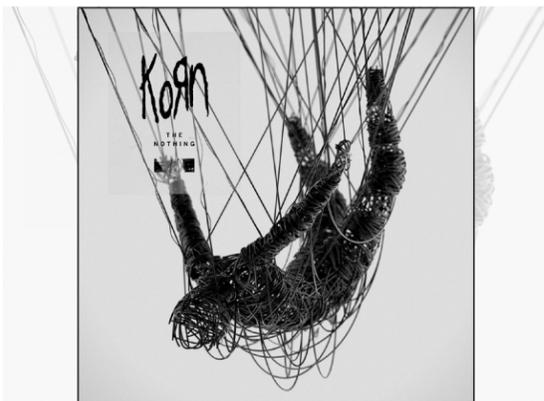
GATECREEPER
DESERTED
RELAPSE

The vanguard of death metal in 2019 can be found under Arizona's searing sun - the place **Gatecreeper** call home. Of course, the band nodded to their scorching home state with the title of their 2016 full-length debut, *Sonoran Depravation*. The theme continues on **Deserted**, which boasts songs like "Sweltering Madness," "Boiled Over" and the double-meaning title track. You can hear the results on "From The Ashes," a crushing cut primed for the European festival circuit. Over on side two, "Boiled Over" fuses classic Bolt Thrower with the pulverizing power grooves of sludge titans Crowbar. Album closer "Absence Of Light" upholds **Gatecreeper's** tradition of finishing their records with a deathly doom dirge. Mixed by the one-and-only Kurt Ballou (Converge).



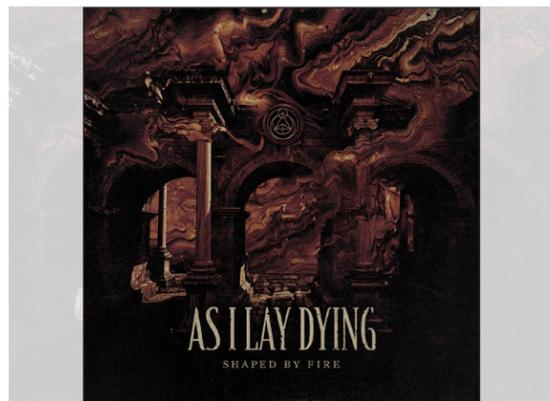
SPITE
THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL
STAY SICK

Rising deathcore/hardcore outfit **Spite** follow-up their hard-hitting eponymous 2015 debut and 2017's *Nothing Is Beautiful* with brutal third full-length effort, **The Root Of All Evil**. "**The Root Of All Evil** is about embracing the darkness that swells in your core and going through with your sinister urges," says vocalist Darius Tehrani. "No help to seek, no God above, no happy ending. While others attempt to pick up the pieces of a failing society, you thrive in the negativity, the hatred, and the violence." There is also a positive side (but it's a hidden track).



KORN
THE NOTHING
RRR

Nu-metal progenitors, **Korn**, follow-up 2016's *The Serenity Of Suffering* with their thirteenth studio album, **The Nothing**. Lead single "You'll Never Find Me" exhibits plenty of the band's signatures with its unrelenting drums, gnarly guitar work, unsettling keyboards and staggering quiet/loud dynamics, but something darker is at play. Named after *The NeverEnding Story* antagonist, **The Nothing** sonically documents a very traumatic 2018 for frontman Jonathan Davis, whose estranged wife, Deven, passed away from an accidental overdose. "Deep, within our Earth lives an extraordinary force... Pulling at us every moment of our lives," says Davis. "There is a miraculous and small realm within this vortex and it's the only place where balance between these dynamic and polarizing forces exists... Welcome to **The Nothing**."



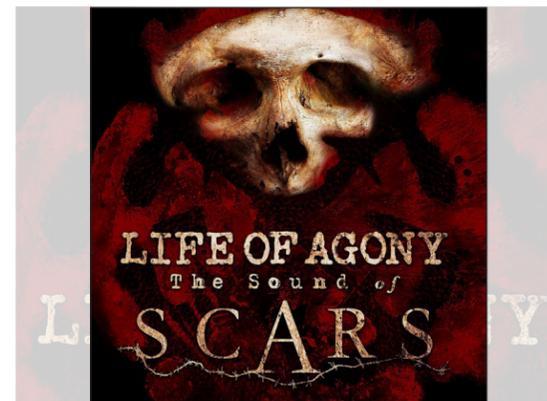
AS I LAY DYING
SHAPED BY FIRE
NUCLEAR BLAST

Shaped By Fire is infamous metalcore outfit **As I Lay Dying's** first record since 2012's *Awakened* and vocalist Tim Lambesis' controversial release from prison in 2016 after being convicted in a murder-for-hire plot to kill his estranged wife. The 12-track collection is preceded by tracks like "My Own Grave," "Redefined" and the title cut. "For me, this is the most meaningful **As I Lay Dying** record," says guitarist Nick Hipa. "Every album encapsulates who you are and what you've gone through. At this point in time, we've gone through more than I ever imagined, but we all grew. We became better musicians and better people. People will hear a positive resolve to our journey so far." Let's certainly fucking hope so.



CREEPING DEATH
WRETCHED ILLUSIONS
EONE

Inspired by the speed of early Sepultura and the hammering epic crush of Bolt Thrower - but reflected through its own fresh and unique prism - **Creeping Death** quickly ascended to the top of the modern death metal pile with sheer determination, single-minded focus, bludgeoning heaviness, and breakneck intensity. The band's blistering new full-length platter, **Wretched Illusions**, raises the stakes with undeniable and unrelenting anthems like "Bloodlust Contamination," "World Decay," "Corroded from Within," and album opener "Ripping Through Flesh." Each of **Wretched Illusions** ten tracks is a certified ripper, keeping those baseball bat swings coming, over and over, and with such accuracy that one might expect Tim Lambesis might hire it out for "freelance work."



LIFE OF AGONY
THE SOUND OF SCARS
NAPALM

Hard rock/crossover metal veterans **Life of Agony** return with their hard-hitting, emotional concept album **The Sound of Scars**, which continues the haunting narrative from the band's groundbreaking 1993 debut *River Runs Red*, hailed by *Rolling Stone* as "one of the greatest metal albums of all time." Co-produced by Sylvia Massy (Tool, System of a Down) and Joey Z, the band tapped esteemed engineer Howie Weinberg (Nirvana, Soundgarden) to master the catchy, personal and heavy record. "**The Sound of Scars** feels like such a monumental moment in **Life of Agony's** story," says Alan Robert. "On one hand, we've come full circle, continuing the concept of... *River Runs Red*, and on the other hand, we've reached new heights with the raw power of the sound and songwriting."



FLYING COLORS
THIRD DEGREE
MUSIC THEORIES - MASCOT LABEL GROUP

In chemistry, when certain galvanizing elements come together, they become quite explosive. In music, when certain galvanizing artists come together, they become **Flying Colors**. In fact, whenever the five Legendary Gentlemen of Prog who encompass **Flying Colors** - guitarist Steve Morse, drummer Mike Portnoy, keyboardist/vocalist Neal Morse, bassist Dave LaRue, and powerhouse vocalist and songwriter Casey McPherson - join forces the result is a sweet sonic bouillabaisse that reflects where their inherent mastery of melody intersects with top-tier progressive musicianship. **Flying Colors** soar to even loftier heights with **Third Degree**, their third studio album in a decade. "There's a lot of ear candy sprinkled throughout every song," observes **Portnoy**. "**Third Degree** is a complete piece that I don't think ever overstays its welcome."