

HEADBANGER'S WALL



SOULFLY
ARCHANGEL
NUCLEAR BLAST

Biblical in scope, mystical in purpose, exotic in execution, **Soufly's** latest masterpiece, *Archangel*, sees vocalist/guitarist Max Cavalera and longtime six-string shredder Marc Rizzo pushing the musical bludgeoning to its very limit while injecting the songs with moments of trippy nuance and ethereal dissonance. *Archangel* invokes Old Testament fire-and-brimstone and New Testament crucifixion/resurrection with an equal devotion, study and musical pilgrimage into the rich history of the magic-obsessed and supernaturally instinctual meditations of pre-civilized people. This is all woven together into a tapestry brimming with death metal as punishingly pulverizing as Behemoth and Belphegor and fierce as vintage Slayer. The destruction of Sodom plays out sonically in 'Sodomites.' The Akkadian god of the sun commands his due in 'Shamash.' 'Ishtar Rising' and 'Titans' are as epic as any fantasy trilogy of modern cinema, evoking the same type of emotion as a brutal battle on Game Of Thrones.



RAMMING SPEED
NO EPITAPHS
PROSTHETIC

Hailing from Richmond, VA, **Ramming Speed** is a heavy-hitting quintet whose sound combines the charging rhythm of d-beat and the sharp aggression of thrash with NWOBHM-worthy guitar harmonies and grind's blinding speed — is no stranger to the metal scene. Since 2007 their aggressive tour schedule has covered the entire US many times over, along with 14 other countries, including the UK, Iceland, Czech Republic, Germany, Sweden, Spain, Italy, Poland, Austria and beyond with such notable acts as Exhumer, Goatwhore, Madball, 3 Inches of Blood, Municipal Waste, Toxic Holocaust, Phobia, Revocation, Valient Thorr and Saviours. Decibel magazine referred to **Ramming Speed** as "among the ranks of metal's hardest-working acts" and called the band's Prosthetic Records debut, *Doomed To Destroy, Destined To Die*, "A real game changer." The band's latest, *No Epitaphs*, was produced once again by the busiest man in Metal, Kurt Ballou (Converge, Kvelertak, Black Breath).



SLAYER
REPENTLESS
NUCLEAR BLAST

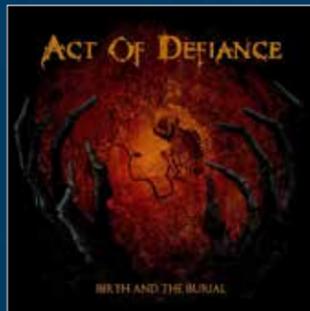
Thirty-four years into its career, **Slayer** remains the preeminent punk-thrash band that helped establish the genre and that up-and-coming metal heads continue to revere and emulate. **Slayer** is a five-time nominated, two-time Grammy Award-winning metal juggernaut that writes songs which mirror the turmoil and aberrations of our society. *Repentless*, the band's first new album in six years — its first since the devastating loss of guitarist Jeff Hannema — continues the **Slaytanic** offensive with a twelve-song, blood-shaking sonic attack. *Repentless* is dark, fast, aggressive and without mercy. *Repentless* is loaded with sensational songs, from the hyper-aggressive metallic blasts of the title track, 'Take Control,' 'Implode' and 'Atrocity Vendor' to the ferocious Thrash pounding of 'Vices,' 'When The Stillness Comes' and 'Pride In Prejudice' the album is **Slayer** through and through. "This is definitely **Slayer**," says bassist / singer Tom Araya. "No one will be disappointed with what we've done."



BURN HALO
WOLVES OF WAR
EONE MUSIC

In the fierce downpour of hard-edged radio anthems and melody driven post metalcore that makes up the hurricane of modern rock, **Burn Halo** sits in the eye of the storm. *Wolves Of War* burns with a fire akin to the brutal-but-melodic juxtaposition of New Wave Of American Heavy Metal standard-bearers Killswitch Engage, the neo-Guns N' Roses attack of Avenged Sevenfold, and the dark ambience of HIM. Fans who adored **Burn Halo** singles like 'Save Me' and 'Tear it Down' will fall in love with **Burn Halo** all over again, even as longtime Eighteen Visions acolytes will delight in their throwback power of tracks like "Dying Without You," which according to singer (and former Eighteen Visions frontman) James is about "trying to cope and rebuild after a tragedy, We wanted the song to be musically fierce yet melodic, seamlessly blending metal and rock. I believe we accomplished that." Indeed.

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ACT OF DEFIANCE
BIRTH AND THE BURIAL
METAL BLADE

In a time of endless sub-genre classifications being thrown at bands **Act Of Defiance** cut to the quick, offering 100% in-your-face, uncompromising metal. "If you invited fans of all kinds of metal — from thrash to Scandinavian metal to modern American metal — and had them all in a mosh pit, **Act Of Defiance** would be their soundtrack," asserts guitarist Chris Broderick. With a hefty resumé that chronicles time spent riffing and shredding in Jag Panzer, Nevermore, and a seven-year stint in Megadeth, his pedigree speaks for itself. Furthermore, joined by powerhouse drummer — and fellow Megadeth alumnus — Shawn Drover, bassist Matt Bachand (Shadows Fall/Times Of Grace) and vocalist Henry Derek (Scar The Martyr) the band are a truly formidable metallic behemoth, and their debut album, *Birth And The Burial*, is ten tracks of armor-plated, state of the art heaviness.



RIVERS OF NIHIL
MONARCHY
METAL BLADE

Rivers of Nihil began their musical journey in 2009, quickly climbing the global metal ranks on the strength of overwhelmingly positive reviews and tours with Death, Obituary, Whitechapel, and Dying Fetus, among others. The seasonal concept that began with spring on the band's debut, *The Conscious Seed of Light*, continues with *Monarchy*, as it welcomes the oppressive heat of summer. The story takes place millions of years after the events in *The Conscious Seed of Light*. Adam Biggs, the band's primary lyricist, explains: "The Earth has been transformed into a vast desert wasteland, where after eons of lifelessness, new beings begin to take shape and begin their journey as shepherds of the planet. But after a while, a class system forms from a sun-worshipping religious dictatorship, and these beings start to lose their way. Only the guidance of an ancient earthly force can help them save themselves as well the planet."



HATE ETERNAL
INFERNUS
SEASON OF MIST

Hate Eternal has been one of the leading death metal acts worldwide for over eighteen years. The band's five full-length albums are considered crucial genre touchstones, and **Hate Eternal** is a proven headliner on major stages across five continents. Now, after a four-year break, **Hate Eternal** is back with an absolutely brutal new album, *Infernus*. Founder, guitarist/vocalist, primary songwriter as well as acclaimed producer Erik Rutan and bassist/vocalist J.J. Hrubovcak holed up in the Rutan's Mana Recording Studio (Cannibal Corpse, Mountain Goats, Goatwhore) and came out with *Infernus* — **Hate Eternal's** most punishing album yet. Tracks like "Pathogenic Apathy," "The Stygian Deep," and "Zealot, Crusader of War" will redefine your notions of what good drumming is — the machine like precision of the band's new drummer, Chason Westmoreland, must be heard to be believed. He's, like, a dude made out of blastbeats. *Infernus* is a masterpiece.



THE SCORPIONS
RETURN TO FOREVER
LEGACY

No other German rock band has, over the course of decades, earned an international standing quite like the **Scorpions** — proven once again by the worldwide chart and sales records of their new studio album *Return to Forever*, which Metal Hammer Germany described as "their best album in twenty years". As the imperial album cover implies, *Return to Forever*, which celebrates the band's 50th anniversary, is in a way their crowning achievement. Once again, Klaus Meine, Rudolf Schenker, Matthias Jabs and company show the full range of their skill and present themselves in top form, with tracks like "Rock My Car" and "We Built This House" already proving themselves as instant classics. The band built *Return to Forever* by breathing new life into overlooked and previously unreleased gems from the band's 80s heyday and complementing them with brand-new compositions. The result is the sound of the **Scorpions** reinvented and still able to rock you like a hurricane!

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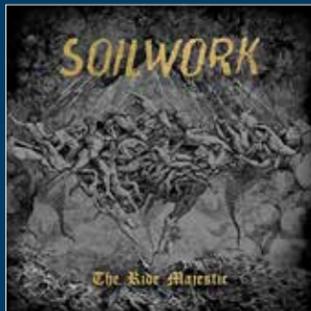
HEADBANGER'S WALL



MYRKUR M

RELAPSE

Over the past year Danish black metal phenom, **Myrkur**, has stricken us one by one with her lush, brutal melodies that blend second-wave black metal, Nordic folk music, classical instrumentation and haunting choirs. Finally her highly anticipated debut metal masterpiece **M** is here. Combining the rawness of second wave black metal bands like Ulver and Darkthrone with a natural sonic, ethereal beauty, **Myrkur** has created a wholly unique perspective on the genre with **M**. She elaborates "Nature is a big part of the reason black metal even exists. And all types of pure music that comes from a pure place. The word 'Myrkur' means 'darkness' in Icelandic. The place where there are no boundaries, where no one can hurt me." **M** was recorded in various locations of Oslo, Norway (including a tomb in Emanuel Vigeland's Museum) with co-producer Garm - the mastermind behind black metal legends Ulver. Guests include members of Mayhem, Nidingr, and Christopher Amott of Arch Enemy.



SOILWORK THE RIDE MAJESTIC

NUCLEAR BLAST

Visionary Swedish metallers **Soilwork** were quite busy for the past two and a half years. A double album, an exclusive EP for Asia, a live DVD, an extensive world tour - no time to rest and boom! Here we go again with yet another masterpiece called **The Ride Majestic**. Marking new bass player Markus Wibom's (ex-Hearts Alive) addition to the band, **The Ride Majestic** picks up where they left off with *The Living Infinite*. While musically exploring darker grounds than ever before the band also strayed away a bit from the "regular song structures" and have been a bit more spontaneous as well, giving in for the moment and not care to much of the consequences so to speak," as singer Björn "Speed" Strid puts it. But fear not, those amazingly catchy choruses, melodies and powerful riff and drum attacks that are so connected with the **Soilwork** universe remain!



ONCE HUMAN THE LIFE I REMEMBER

EARMUSIC

When people think of Logan Mader, they remember the flying dreads, a flying V, and deadly volume, performing with the likes of Machine Head and Soulfly. Now an in-demand music producer/mixer who has worked with Five Finger Death Punch, Gojira, and Periphery, he had traded for staying behind the scenes. Still, something within him stirred. One day, a mutual friend connected **Mader** with newcomer and multi-instrumentalist Lauren Hart to Mader for a production deal. There was a creative spark between the two - Hart moved from guitars to vocals, unsheathing a throat-scarring level of vocal brutality that completely contradicts her soft appearance - and **Once Human** was born! "The creative chemistry was so on fire and the music really spoke to me," **Mader** said. "It's a mix of brutal metal and melodic epic, with cinematic textures. It's unique and really has its own identity."



NILE WHAT SHOULD NOT BE UNEARTHED

NUCLEAR BLAST

Nile are back with their new, eighth bone-crushing masterpiece, **What Should Not Be Unearthed**. The band had only one goal for their new record: "Sheer epic brutality," guitarist Karl Sanders jokes, but then he answers seriously: "Really though, the focus this time around is on brutal Heavy Metal riffing and songwriting; kind of like of an *Annihilation Of The Wicked* approach but very streamlined to achieve maximum destructive impact... Although **Unearthed** is still full of the kind of undeniable musicianship people have come to expect from us over the years, it's the songs themselves that will hit listeners over the head this time around." Once again, the title and the lyrical themes of **Nile's** album are heavily inspired by old Egypt and archaeology: What if archaeologists accidentally dug up something, so old and unimaginable in its implications of the origin of humanity that it rocked the foundations of modern civilization?

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BUTCHER BABIES TAKE IT LIKE A MAN

CENTURY MEDIA

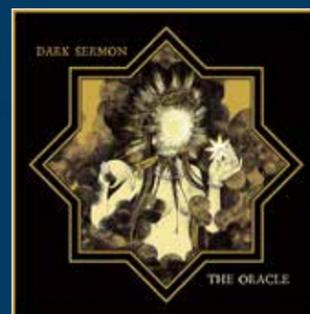
Hailing from the City Of Angels, the **Butcher Babies** offer redemption from the overplayed underground, exorcising demons with a visceral sound matched only in scope by their explosive stage show. Frontwomen Carla Harvey and Heidi Shepherd, guitarist Henry Flury [Amen], bassist Jason Klein [Azdacha] and drummer Chris Warner [Scars of Tomorrow] juxtapose brutal, aggressive riffs with beautiful melodies. **It Like a Man** is the **Butcher Babies** at their most abrasive and aggressive offering. While unrelenting, it also delivers crushing grooves backed with extremely catchy hooks. **Take It Like a Man** was recorded in the Hollywood Hills with renowned producer Logan Mader [Five Finger Death Punch, Gojira]. While penning lyrics, Shepherd and Harvey also opened up like never before. Blatant, brutal, and (sometimes) belligerent honesty was the only rule. "You have to dig to get that emotion out," sighs Harvey. "Everything we write comes straight from the heart and our own experiences. It's not cookie cutter bullshit."



BATTLECROSS RISE TO POWER

METAL BLADE

Thrash has proven an indestructible genre. Resistant to trends and fads it has remained the preserve of true metal fans worldwide, and in the hands of **Battlecross** it has been pushed to the next level. Disinterested in simply recycling the 'classic' thrash sound, the Canton, MI quintet have consistently brought new fire, energy, and dynamics to their metallic assault, and with **Rise To Power** they raise the stakes once more. Building on the blistering sounds of sophomore release *War Of Will* (2013), it is a darker, more aggressive and tighter record - catchy without pandering and packed with face-melting solos. "We want to play the riffs that we want to hear, and we just want to keep building on our experience and raising the bar," adds guitarist Tony Asta. "We've always been about putting the work in, and we couldn't be prouder of what we've achieved with *Rise To Power*."



DARK SERMON THE ORACLE

EONE MUSIC

"But what we've got on **The Oracle**, the band's sophomore release, is a wholly different beast. **Dark Sermon's** sound is still rooted in death metal, but it's as if the dudes got REALLY into DM's gnarliest subset - Nails, Black Breath, Enabler, and all the other crunchier DM bands that worship Entombed - and just said, 'Fuck all this modern metal stuff, we're gonna sound like THIS now,' with a dirtier, more organic production style to match. In itself this might be troubling, since aping one style is no better than aping another, even if one is supposedly more 'cool.' Thankfully the lads in **Dark Sermon** had the wherewithal to make it their own by sprinkling in elements of black metal and doom, making what we've got on **The Oracle** as engaging a listen as anything we've heard all year." - Metal Sucks

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