

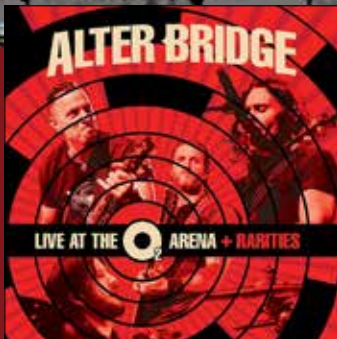
HEADBANGER'S WALL



INCANTATION PROFANE NEXUS

RELAPE

Legendary death metal pioneers **Incantation** triumphantly return to their original label, Relapse Records, to vomit forth another unholy offering of godless abominations on *Profane Nexus*, their formidable tenth full-length album. Embodying 11 blasphemous tracks of sacrilegious conquests, crushing dirges, and vile riffing, *Profane Nexus* is an obliteratingly heavy execution of disgusting death metal that further solidifies **Incantation** as one of extreme music's most influential and consistently hailed artists of the past 30 years. Recorded at the band's own Incantation Studios in Johnstown, PA and mixed/mastered by **Dan Swanö** (Bloodbath, Asphyx, Dark Funeral), *Profane Nexus* is perhaps the finest template of **Incantation's** masterful synthesis of pummeling death metal and disemboweling funeral doom ever to be unleashed during their harrowing, 28-year reign.



ALTER BRIDGE LIVE AT THE O2 ARENA + RARITIES

NAPALM

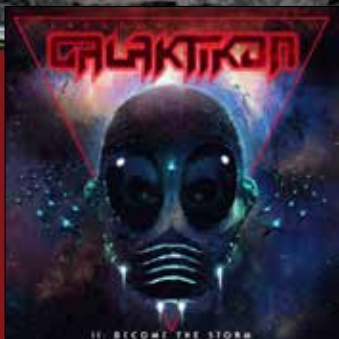
One of the biggest moments of **Alter Bridge's** career was the monumental show at London's famous O2 Arena on November 24, 2016. That landmark performance is now captured in its entirety on 3 discs. The 19-track recording proves with a vengeance what an enormous presence **Alter Bridge** have become on concert stages around the world. Myles Kennedy, Mark Tremonti, Brian Marshall and Scott Phillips tear through hits like "Farther Than the Sun," "Show Me A Leader," "Rise Today" and their masterpiece "Isolation," showcasing a band on the top of their game. Other highlights include the Tremonti sung "Waters Rising," the acoustic-driven "Watch Over You" and their mighty signature anthem "Blackbird." Additionally, this release contains an exclusive full album length "Rarities" LP that will give every collector cause for rejoice! The rarities LP features "Breathe," "Cruel Sun" and "Solace" alongside 7 other obscurities.



VENOM INC AVÉ

NUCLEAR BLAST

Venom are the undisputed originators of extreme metal as we know it. Almost 40 years after their inception, the revitalized 1989-1992 line-up of guitarist Jeff "Mantas" Dunn, vocalist/bassist Tony "Demolition Man" Dolan and drummer Anthony "Abaddon" Bray have returned with a monster of an album entitled *Avé*. **Venom Inc.** was born during an impromptu live set at 2015's Keep It True Festival in Germany. What started as a live set to celebrate **Venom's** legacy immediately turned into a serious reunion. Going into writing *Avé*, **Venom Inc.** realized their live performance was the key to creating an album that would be a metal classic. It was clear that any songs the trio came up with had to have the intensity, the honesty and the aggression that was happening for **Venom Inc.** in a live situation. Simply put, they needed to translate what they do on stage onto a record... Mission accomplished!



BRENDON SMALL GALAKTIKON II: BECOME THE STORM

MEGAFORCE

Brendon Small – the mastermind behind massive metal band **Dethklok** – returns with a new chapter in his popular *Galaktikon* saga, the high-stakes intergalactic extreme rock/metal album, *Galaktikon II: Become the Storm*. In addition to co-production by **Small** and Grammy-nominated producer/engineer Ulrich Wild, *Galaktikon II: Become the Storm* features the distinct rhythmic powers of drum legend Gene Hoglan (Testament, Death, Dark Angel) and bassist extraordinaire Bryan Beller (The Aristocrats, Joe Satriani, Steve Vai). *Galaktikon II: Become the Storm* follows the space-age theme of 2012's original *Galaktikon* album, with a conceptual storyline and a heavier, darker, more brutal sound. With the above-mentioned musicians behind the project, it comes as no surprise that *Galaktikon II: Become the Storm* is a welcomed transformation and expansion of the sound that put **Brendon Small** on the musical map. *Galaktikon II: Become the Storm* proves to be **Small's** most commanding release yet.



THE HAUNTED STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

CENTURY MEDIA

Launched in 1996 by guitarist Jensen, bassist Jonas Björler and drummer Adrian Erlandsson, **The Haunted** has enjoyed cult status in the metal world. Whether the band's continued success is due to an open-minded fanbase, stellar musicianship, or an infallible sense of timing when it comes to releasing new material – perhaps a combination of all three – **The Haunted** continue to be an unpredictable and beloved force to be reckoned with (despite the curveballs thrown and line-up changes) since releasing their self-titled debut in 1998. Their new album, *Strength in Numbers*, is the latest testament to that claim. *Strength in Numbers* serves as the all-important follow-up to *Exit Wounds* from 2014, which saw the entrance of Ola Englund (guitars), and the return of Marco Aro (vocals) and Adrian Erlandsson after their respective 10 and 14 year absences from **The Haunted's** line-up.



THY ART IS MURDER DEAR DESOLATION

NUCLEAR BLAST

Thy Art Is Murder furiously charges once more onto the breach, clawing and spitting against the dying light and a seemingly inevitable collapse of existence. *Dear Desolation*, the Australian metal crew's fourth and mightiest album, is a devastating blow equally against and embracing of a cataclysmic nihilism and all-out misanthropic warfare. Combining classic and authentic death metal elements that invoke the renegade, spirit-crushing, monstrosity of early Morbid Angel, Cannibal Corpse and Decapitated with the precision rhythmic assault of Meshuggah and the breakdown-infused bounce of The Black Dahlia Murder, **Thy Art Is Murder** have redefined a once cast aside and maligned sub-genre, proudly re-energizing and representing the best in extremity. The band's music remains uncompromising, building upon the savage momentum of the controversially outspoken *Holy War* (2015), the punishing *Hate* (2012) and their gigantic debut, *The Adversary* (2010). Produced, engineered, mixed and mastered by **Will Putney** at Graphic Nature Audio in Belleville, NJ.

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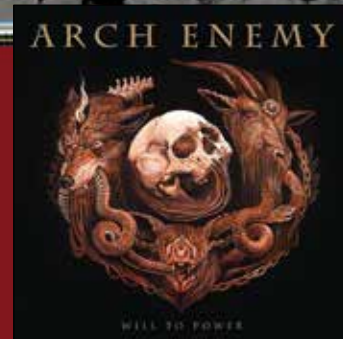
KMFDM
HELL YEAH
EARMUSIC

Pioneers, philosophers, trailblazers, prophets, etc. always have to assemble their flocks abroad before they find due recognition in their homelands. This also applies to the German art form **KMFDM**. Whether in the US, Japan, Australia or elsewhere - for over a quarter of a century they are the epitome and synonym for a musical style of the harder variety: Industrial Rock. On *Hell Yeah*, their first new studio album in three years, legendary pioneers of industrial rock **KMFDM** once again redefine themselves while, at the same time, staying true to their roots. **KMFDM**'s signature sound, a crossover between techno/dance and heavy metal is combined with sometimes political, sometimes ironic lyrics and an underlying humorous edge. Title track lead single "Hell Yeah" is an instant **KMFDM** classic with its ultra-heavy beat and Sascha Konietzka's trademark cynical lyrics. Of course, *Hell Yeah* features artwork by Aidan Hughes - aka BRUTE!



SEPTICFLESH
CODEX OMEGA
PROSTHETIC RECORDS

Septicflesh brings a unique sound to the table, a combination of orchestral and classical influences mixed in with death metal riffs and brutal vocals. The end result is a hauntingly captivating aural experience that has revolutionized the term "Dreamy Death Metal." Now, the primordial, menacing and majestic Gods of orchestral extreme metal return with the new album, *Codex Omega*. The release was produced by **Jens Bogren** (Opeth, Dimmu Borgir) and features ten tracks of their trademark blend of mystical atmosphere, relentless death guitar riffing and pale melodies. Lyrically and musically, *Codex Omega* is by far the most infernal slab from **Septicflesh** to date. Prosthetic Records' vinyl version comes with a bonus disc comprised of three orchestral tracks, once again featuring the Filmharmonic Orchestra of Prague.



ARCH ENEMY
WILL TO POWER
CENTURY MEDIA

Arch Enemy is ready to rise again and climb ever further up the ladder toward pure metal supremacy. *Will to Power*, is the ultimate statement from a band that is still growing in stature - the first album the group has recorded with their current line-up, one in which diehard fans will be both thrilled to hear in top form and somewhat surprised by their latest creative explorations. "The goal is always to raise the bar yet again and create an epic masterpiece!" says guitarist / mastermind **Michael Amott**. "I think the album has a great balance between traditional **Arch Enemy** and some new influences that come through here and there. The most surprising thing on this album is that we've written our first ever ballad. It's still a very metal song, but there's no way around the fact that it is a ballad and that might be quite controversial for a band like us, "I guess."



CANNABIS CORPSE
LEFT HAND PASS
SEASON OF MIST

Turning a classic album title such as Entombed's *Left Hand Path* into a weedy phrase would normally be punishable by having to listen to the worst of Modern Talking on continued play. Yet **Cannabis Corpse** not only get away with it, but the death metal and pot aficionados are actually doing exactly what their massive following is happily demanding of the Americans. **Cannabis Corpse** was conceived out of a passionate love for Floridian death metal shared by Municipal Waste bassist/vocalist Phil "LandPhil" Hall and drummer Josh "Hallhammer" Hall, who created the band in 2006 in Richmond, VA. The trio give rise to an unrelenting piece of crushing, weed-themed death replete with their signature, THC-fueled, horror fiction lyrics. As tracks such as "The 420th Crusade," "Chronic Breed" and the title track illustrate, *Left Hand Pass* is another massive step-forward for the band and a monumental piece of U.S. death metal. Time to fly high!



PARADISE LOST
MEDUSA
NUCLEAR BLAST

Medusa serves as **Paradise Lost**'s heaviest release of the past 15 years, melding crushing doom metal with Singer Nick Holmes' harsh death growls. The meaninglessness of our own existence is expressed through bitter yet laconic lyrics, typified by their 8-minute opening track "Fearless Sky" while "Gods of Ancient" deals with the more plausible concept of ancient paganism, and how worshipping the sun, moon and stars is more understandable than any man-made deity. In a similar way, "No Passage for the Dead" also settles old scores with blind faith and the fact that many world religions solely aim for a glorious life after death. There are also some sparks of hope that shine through on "Blood and Chaos," but in the end, it all comes down to a final disillusioning conclusion: that humanity is only seldom worth living on this planet. This is a perception that Holmes touches on in the concluding track, "Until the Grave."



COMEBACK KID
OUTSIDER
NUCLEAR BLAST

Comeback Kid first united in 2000 and dropped their debut LP, *Turn It Around*, in 2003. Its follow-up, 2005's *Wake the Dead*, further cemented the band's foundation of energetic, punk-propelled hardcore. With the departure of original vocalist Scott Wade, Andrew Neufeld moved from guitar to lead vocals ahead of 2007's *Broadcasting*. More recent releases like 2010's *Symptoms + Cures* and 2014's *Die Knowing* found the band incorporating a wider array of elements and influences into their combustible sonic concoction. *Outsider* - **Comeback Kid**'s sixth full-length and first on the iconic Nuclear Blast Records - represents the pinnacle of that progress to date, simultaneously pushing new boundaries while returning to the in-your-face immediacy of their first releases. "It's always been about refining what we do and incorporating new things," Neufeld affirms. "This time around, we were really focused on songs that we knew would connect from the stage."