

New Music Review
Metallica –Death Magnetic
By Michael Makuch
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This long awaited and much anticipated new disc from Metallica is really good! And this is coming from someone who has never put Metallica on a pedestal and has, at times, considered Metallica's musical merits to be dubious at best. But they do have a few really good albums and this is right up there with their best.

"Death Magnetic" sees Metallica returning, after many years of experimenting with other styles, to long form metal epics. The only difference with this album and the first three records is that now there is a lot more groove and warmth in their sound. It's sort of like if you took old Metallica and mixed it with what Clutch is doing these days: Hard edged jams with a groove. All of the songs on "Death Magnetic" are between six and ten minutes long, which means they get to jam for extended periods of time. Even though the music is hard and heavy, it never feels like they're rushing through a song.

I have read a lot of talk from dissatisfied fans complaining about the "sound quality" of "Death Magnetic" and even the sound engineer has gone on record saying he's not really happy with the sound quality either. Frankly, I don't hear what the problem is, but then, I'm not one of those people who buy music solely for the purpose of critiquing the sound quality. I prefer, instead, to judge an album as a whole. Sure, I care about the sound quality but I like both raw and tightly produced music. I can go either way in metal music and there are fine examples on both sides of the fence. So, what's the fuss? Frankly, I turn my nose at these over-critical naysayers! Also, I went into this album not expecting to like it much and, yet, it has been in heavy rotation at the Makuch household.

I highly recommend this handsomely packaged album. If you like a good heavy metal record that sounds good whether it's played low or loud, you won't be disappointed with "Death Magnetic."