

ease with Silje Wergeland masterpieces like *Mandyliion* wasn't as embarrassing as though the album cover their second effort together, doesn't match their work with, but it stands on its own in addition to The Gathering's it continues the path they've millennium, atmospheric contact. The compositions are Wergeland's more rock oriented tunes like "Heroes for come from 2006's *Home*, ad thing. After all, while Van have been the voice of the stors wrote the beautiful g. This record proves that t of those, whether it is the per Waves" or melancholy ." Even though the loss of a often the kiss of death, The s triumphant. ~ Jeff Treppel

been experimenting within the boundaries of Hate's longtime sound. There's been evolution and progression, but never a reinvention. Not that there's ever been a need for one, as Hate has proven by penning an album that clings to the band's extreme roots, while stretching out in a multitude of directions. But make no mistake about it, *Solarflesh* is arguably the most intense and well written album in Hate's impressive discography. ~ Ryan Ogle



**HEAVEN'S CRY**  
Food for Thought  
Substitute  
(PROSTHETIC) **8**

**PROG POWER METAL:** After reuniting for *Wheels of Impermanence*, Canadian prog mavens Heaven's Cry has reissued their first two albums. The first to re-emerge with a shiny new coat and sleeker sound, *Food for Thought Substitute*, the band's 1996 debut, is among the best that the mid 90s had to offer in terms of melodic, progressive metal. In a world where songwriting comes in second to musicianship, Heaven's Cry displays greatness in both aspects. The tunes here are majestic in nature and spiked with soaring melodies, complex arrangements, and hooks that come sweeping down from a mountain to carry the listener away on an hour long flight that passes by like a brilliant dream. Flourishes of jazz fusion and Rush inspired interludes allow the players to showcase their skills, but never mar the songs with pretension—a feat which few in this genre can claim to have accomplished. Vocally, the melodic and high registered approach might not strike the beginning or part-time proggist that latches onto the band's more straightforward take on the genre, but it's a beautiful performance still. Featuring revamped artwork, remixing by Yannick St-Amand, and remastering courtesy of Jen Bogren, *Food for Thought Substitute* has returned to claim its rightful place in the golden hall of prog metal. ~ Ryan Ogle

5 **GIGANT**

more than 30 years, Rock as served as the voice and German power metallers 14 studio releases, a fistful eakup and subsequent one finally decided to little. Bringing current rist Peter Jordan along for started Giant X. Essentially to Running Wild's power/ ant X shines a brighter light n Lizzy fan lurking inside jacket than we've seen uly, the farther away from e two move, the worse this ystic shift offers a couple o the annals of rock—the rty anthem "Don't Quit Till ; huge choruses and smokin' hose. From there, the album eesy as the tracks tick away. ails it with some tasty slide ed vocals, but generic rock "The Count" (yes, there's a his one), and "Let's Dance" o swallow. Ironically, the n a Blind Flight" is arguably /lid song written in ages. It's t of this record. ~ Ryan Ogle

8 **HEAVEN'S CRY**  
Primal Power  
Addiction  
(PROSTHETIC) **8**

**METAL:** Since the mid among the most consistent an extreme metal scene. e painted presence and ring high quality blackened any Behemoth comparisons, it a clone. Building upon the n 2005's excellent *Anaclasis of Malice & Hatred*, an, the First Sinner has o one of the most sonically ing bands in metal. At the ou'll find the venom and s of black metal snaking ve and intelligent brand of or the exotic and tasteful use album a provocative aura g an ounce of brutality. Over ast few albums, Sinner has

**HEAVEN'S CRY**  
Primal Power  
Addiction  
(PROSTHETIC) **8**

**PROG ROCK REVISITED:** Prosthetic's release of *Primary Power Addiction* from Montreal prog rockers Heaven's Cry is the definitive case of reissuing an album for all the right reasons. Namely, too few outside of prog rock circles had been exposed to the band's technically accomplished yet relatively accessible prog rock when the album was first released in Europe in 2002. That and the fact that after a seven year absence the band reformed in 2011 and signed a deal with Prosthetic for the release of new album *Wheels of Impermanence* makes the timing right for the rerelease of this acclaimed album. In today's prog terms, *Primary Power Addiction* has more in common with 3 than Dream Theater, mainly because the delivery of Heaven's Cry is more rock than metal, including a melodic approach that is



**EINSTÜRZENDE NEUBATEN**  
Live at Rockpalast  
(MADE IN GERMANY) **8**

**INDUSTRIAL PIONEERS CAUGHT ON STAGE:** Germany's Einstürzende Neubaten still enjoys cult status here in the States, despite having served as a formative act in terms of bringing unabashed, uncommercial industrial music to the masses, while at the same time influencing countless, similar acts in their wake. The *Live at Rockpalast* DVD/CD combo presents the indescribably unique industrial legends at peak musical form during a performance at the legendary *Rockpalast* television show in their native Germany. Einstürzende Neubaten frontman and mastermind Blixa Bargeld—who went on to join Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds, as well—is magnetic with his withdrawn yet powerful presence and unique charisma, drawing in the audience almost immediately with an authoritative vocal delivery and a focused, steely stare. Meanwhile, the band themselves hammers along in a similarly fearsome fashion, utilizing relentless percussive power and angular, mechanical anti-melody to create their own, incomparable brand of noise. The band is known for having crafted their own, homegrown instruments with which to attack their audience, and this DVD captures Einstürzende Neubaten focused and sharpened to a razor. "Trinlied," "Armenia," "Sehnsucht," and "Ich bin das letzte Biest am Himmel" all make appearances on *Live at Rockpalast*, song titles which may seem foreign to some, yet which are likely to raise excitement and anticipation for the band's legions of loyal fans who follow and worship the band's every move. ~ George Pacheco

**HAMMERFALL**  
Gates of Dalhalla  
(NUCLEAR BLAST) **8**

**HEAVY METAL:** Sweden's true metal godfathers celebrate the band's 15th anniversary of their debut album with an elaborate and beautifully filmed concert recorded at Dalhalla in their home country. One of the coolest things about this video is the venue itself, an old quarry converted into a grand amphitheater, complete with what is essentially a moat separating the stage from the crowd. The downside of this is the audience seems a little less engaged, but it doesn't seem to bother the band from putting on a typically energetic HammerFall show. The band is in top form with vocalist Joacim Cans sounding pitch perfect all the way through the two plus hour set. Although the setlist of *Gates of Dalhalla* is predictably loaded with newer tracks to support the *Infected* release from 2011, plenty of classic songs appear along the way, including "The Dragon Lies Bleeding," "Heeding the Call," and a ripping version of "Steel Meets Steel," featuring original HammerFall vocalist Mikael Stanne (now of Dark Tranquillity fame). Several other guests appear throughout the evening here, including Roger Pontare and ex-members Jesper Strömblad and Stefan Elmgren, not to mention the Team Cans choir that accompanies the band on several tracks. HammerFall has released a number of DVDs over the years and while *Gates of Dalhalla* isn't the absolute best one, it is near the top and is certainly the most comprehensive. ~ Daniel Hinds