

IGNITOR – YEAR OF THE METAL TIGER – MVD

Year Of The Metal Tiger is an impressive album coming from any band, but it is a special surprise by a band whose debut album of 2007 was only mildly satisfactory. Something must have happened in the intervening years – obviously partly or completely explained by the change in line-up including the addition of Jason McMaster of Evil United (on the same label), Dangerous Toys and Watchtower on vocals – because the energy level, quantity of metal authenticity and sheer fun has increased to impressive heights. And this is 2012 too!

Picking out landmarks is not too difficult. Unlike most newer metal bands thinking reclaiming traditional metal goes through excess melody Ignitor do not forget the power and the heaviness. At times, Year Of The Metal Tiger sounds inspired by Pain Killer and almost, but not quite, verges into thrash metal territory. The sound is not world-class, but a special nod needs to go the warm and heavy snare pitch. McMaster's vocals rage and, while he struggles with the highest pitches of his range, manage to take the band to the next level. The song The Kaiser deserves a special mention: heavy, fast, catchy and what guitar work. At first, it sounded like even the lyrics are on a more sublime niveau, almost like Jack Layton's so-called social democratic manifesto, but the first line about a beer drinking woman takes that away fast! Nevertheless, The Kaiser and We Are IGNITOR (emphasis the band's) are great metal handiworks. 2012 is the year of the dragon, but not on the metal calendar. It is the year of the tiger. – Ali "The Metallian"

<http://www.metallian.com/ignitor.php>