

In Tune

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RHINO, “Dead Throne Monarch” (Arctic Music Group) ☆☆½ — Let me preface this review by acknowledging I’m neither an aficionado of thrash/doom/sludgecore metal (for that you’d better call Brian Krasman) nor up to

date on the Spanish hard rock scene (you’re on your own there because I got nothing).

So perhaps I’m not the best person to serve up an opinion on the latest platter from Bilbao (wasn’t he a Hobbit?) based trio Rhino. Nevertheless, I’ve listened to “Dead Throne March” a handful of times and feel confident in saying it’s pretty darn, well, OK.

Things start off in dark, intriguing fashion with the title track and “Reins of the Warlord” before the first bump in the road comes along in the way-too-long “Earth Reclaims the Usurper.” The sprawling “Funebre” (15-plus minutes of sludge) kinda grew on me after a while, but I didn’t much care for “Promise of Storm” or “Horned Crown.”

Frontman Javier Galvez wields a pretty good axe and can growl with the best of them. So fans of the genre might very well appreciate Rhino more than me. But for the rest of us, “Dead Throne March” isn’t likely to make any converts. (JS)