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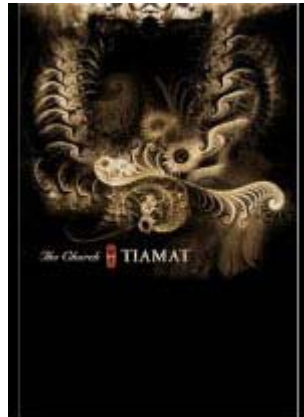
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Tiamat - The Church of Tiamat

August 2006



Tiamat
The Church of Tiamat
Metal Mind Productions
By Jesse Lynch

Tiamat have been around for a long time. They are well known in the European metal community. They have an extensive back catalogue. Of course, I knew none of this. I had, quite frankly, never even heard of Tiamat until I saw them on the list for review. "Try something new," Mrs. Editor always says. So I did, with mixed results.

Musically, Tiamat strike me as rather bland. Every song was basically the same mid-tempo dirge. Each verse, no matter how the song started, dropped down to clean guitar or quiet distortion, allowing the vocalist to sing in a low, vampiric voice. Then heavy chorus, back to clean verse; after a while they all started to sound the same. Possibly it's just my lack of familiarity with their music. Possibly the music just all sounds the same.

On the production side, the DVD is very well made. You can hear every instrument. The crowd noise is apparent but not intrusive. The vocals are clear, which is sometimes a challenge. Even better, at times the vocalist sounds like he's having trouble staying in tune. The reason this is a good thing is because it shows that this is, at least for the most part, an actual live catch. When a vocalist sounds too perfect it's often the result of post-production tampering. This defeats the whole point of a live DVD. Along with the audio there's a top notch light show and great camera work.

The extras give you another DVD worth of material: an interview with two of the band members, the usual assortment of photo galleries, desktop images, etc... On top of the main concert, you get an additional thirteen tracks of videos and select live performances. With a total running time of 162 minutes, you get a lot for your money.

While the music its self didn't really appeal to me, that could probably be chalked up to stylistic preference. The DVD is well made and has plenty of extras to keep fans of this type of atmospheric metal happy. Tiamat fans should be thrilled.

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