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February 20, 2009

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If you haven't heard Austria's German-language

industrial/pop/classical-metal band Stahlhammer before, prepare yourselves. On this limited-edition digipak reissue of their third album, 1998's *Feind Hört Mit*, these guys (led by gruff, militant vocalist Georgij Alexandrowitsch Makazaria) sound like *S&M*-era Metallica jamming with an edgier Rammstein and occasionally



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joined by an angelic choir. The pop angle comes from the band's decision to pay tribute to Falco, the German artist who broke through in America with "Rock Me, Amadeus" and who died earlier that year, by recording two Falco songs. (Guitarist Conrad Schrenk had worked with Falco previously.) Those songs, "Der Mann Mit Dem Koks" and "Jeanny," don't lack heaviness and actually fit in well with the rest of the album. And lest you think it bizarre that a band like Stahlhammer cover Falco, note that it previously tackled Pink Floyd's "Another Brick in the Wall" and M.C. Hammer's "U Can't Touch This."

Makazaria left Stahlhammer after this album and was replaced by original vocalist Gary Wheeler. The band went on to release at least three more records (featuring Phil Collins and David Bowie covers), but *Feind Hört Mit* is considered their strongest effort.

Track Listing:

Was Ist Das
Am Liebsten Von Hinten
Feind Hört Mit
Der Mann Mit Dem Koks
Herz Aus Stahl
Schlag Mich
Messerschmied
Jeanny
Kein Schöner Land
Strom Der Zeit
Supernova

Added: November 10th 2008 Reviewer: Michael Popke Score: 大大大