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CD Review: The Great Kat - Beethoven On Speed Reissue

The Great Kat - Beethoven On Speed 2007 Metal Mind Productions / Roadrunner Records Ray Van Horn, Jr.



In my interviewing career I've been told some strange, crazy and over-the-top things, many of them uttered from the grimy mouth of Gwar's Oderus Urungus. Still, no one tops The Great Kat, who randomly offered to sodomize me with a high heel stiletto in the middle of our interview. That would be The Great Kat we all know and love, as proficient with her insults, cursing and attention-seizing megalomania trips as she is on the guitar and violin.

When The Great Kat first appeared in 1987 with her brash debut Worship Me Or Die, this six string roguette possessed the fuck-you wherewithal of Wendy O. Williams combined with the Bach and Beethoven-kissed talent to back up her taunting and scene parody self adoration. On Worship Me Or Die, Kat proved a lady could shred your ears and brains apart with her neoclassical fret flogging as much as any dude, which was good, considering the lyrical quality of that album was far below the forthright exhibitionism of Kat's guitar playing. "Kill the Mothers" comes to mind for its brain-dead nihilism, which was probably the motivation behind it all, because no sooner do you tell Kat to make her point and move on, she drives the point with dizzying aplomb.

In 1990 The Great Kat took another shot at winning over the metal masses with the far superior Beethoven On Speed, but unfortunately, few people were listening. Sure, a lot of it had to do with her nutty male-mocking "The Great Kat is God" proclamations, but the bigger factor as to why Beethoven On Speed sped away just as fast as The Great Kat wielded it was due to changing music tastes in North America. The continent was turning its backs to established leaguers such as George Lynch, Bruce Kulick and Rudy Schenker, much less The Great

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