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Artist: Behemoth

Title: "Chaotica: The Essence Of The Underground"

Label: Metal Mind Productions

Release Date: 2/20/2007

Genre: Black Metal

Rating: 4/5

Written By: Ken Pierce (copyright 2007) for PiercingMetal.com

Since around 1991 the deadly Behemoth had focused intense and evil gaze on Extreme Black Metal and they would remain in this genre until 2004 with the release of the epic "Demigod". The CD found them moving into the realms of Technical Death Metal and the worlds of music have never been the same. The release of "Chaotica: The Essence Of The Underground" is the perfect way for those who are fans of the bands most recent activity to learn of their storied past and perhaps to remind their existing acolytes of their continued dominating presence in Metal as a whole. Formed and founded by Nergal, this double CD is a retrospective of these formative years and features almost 150 minutes of screaming Black Metal that is sure to sear the flesh from your mortal bones. The materia comes from their first albums and is completely remastered which brings the clarity and intensity to new life more than ever before and believe me this is some powerful stuff happening from start to finish.

The package is broken up into two sections with the first being "Storms To Unleash" and the second "Thunders To Erupt". On the first CD, the earliest material (1994), we find Nergal mastering all guitars and vocals while drums are destroyed by Baal Ravenlock. The level of musicality displayed this early in the bands life shows just the kind of creative genius that Nergal was for this format. Some of the feels and patterns are still performed by today's Black Metal greats and clearly Behemoth was one of the main influencers here. I loved the power felt in "Wolves Guard My Coffin" and one could feel the despair and melancholy of "Hell Dwells In Ice", a song that was entirely piano and spoken word. Not a common setup in a Black Metal song back then to say the least. The second CD finds the lineup increased to Les on bass and Inferno on some drums. Inferno is part of the lineup of today and is a crucial part of the bands ability to crush ones skull in the live sense. This CD also includes two never before heard covers by the band of music by Destruction and The True Mayhem. It is wrapped in a digipak case and folds out to present some intense artwork and photos. The included booklet is 16 pages and features lyrics to all the music on the two CD's and also photos from this time in the bands history. There are additional liner notes added as commentary about the release by Nergal himself.

The discerning Black Metal fan cannot go wrong with this one as it is largely historical in nature and features material so long out of print finally in remastered form. Behemoth fans will trample to get it so do the wise thing and join these hungry legions. Nergal is expecting you – let's not keep him waiting too long.

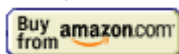


[Chaotica](#)

Behemoth

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