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ROCK & METAL MAGAZINE



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Issue 253 - July 2022 - £5.95



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Is it too early to name an
album of the year?

IN ASSOCIATION WITH TSM PROMOTIONS

CHAPTER 19 THE NEW POWER FILES

Welcome to Chapter 19 of The New Power Files, featuring a bumper 151 of the best new rock and metal songs – free for you to download.

To grab the mp3 files, band info, and Nicky's 'The Music Is Out There' PDF interviews, go to www.powerplaymagazine.co.uk. Click on the Power Files tab and then the link to download the zip file for The New Power Files Chapter 19. Enter the pass code when prompted. As there are so many songs this time we have also included separate links for each group. It should be straightforward but if you have any problems with downloading the files, give us a call on 0161 3391035. Enjoy the music!

Here's the exclusive code for Powerplay readers: MOR22 (the pass code is case-sensitive and the link will expire at the end of January 2023).

Group 1: Classic, Rock, Blues Rock, Indie and Americana

1. Keith Thompson 'Easy Money'

From the album: 'Smoke And Mirrors'
www.densitymusic.com

2. Derek Davis 'What Is Up Is Down'

From the single: 'What Is Up Is Down'
<https://derekdavismusic.com>

3. Linda Ronald 'Will O' The Wisp'

From the album: 'The Heights'
<https://facebook.com/lindaronaldmusic>

4. Timothy J 'Better Late'

From the album: 'Better Late'
<https://www.timothyj.ca>

5. Crossroads 'Fire In The Valley'

From the album: 'Fire In The Valley'
<https://www.facebook.com/CrossroadsMaine>

6. Only Sound 'Peaches'

From the album: 'The Only Sound'
<https://www.facebook.com/onlysoundband>

7. Mojo Parker 'Let It Ride'

From the album: 'The Mojo Parker Express'
<https://mojoparker.com>

8. Peace Machine 'Shadows Collide'

From the album: 'Golden Velvet'
<http://www.peacemachine.at>

9. Marshmellow Overcoat 'Ghost In The Doorway'

From the album: 'Ghost In The Doorway'
<https://marshmellowovercoat.com/>

10. Erewn 'Childhoods'

From the album: 'How Will All This End?'
<https://www.facebook.com/Erewnproject>

11. 70's Sons 'Night Train'

From the album: 'South And Mahry'
www.soundtopia.co.uk

12. Branford Hwy 'Boots On The Ground'

From the EP: 'Branford Hwy'
https://m.facebook.com/Branfordhwy/?__tn__=C

13. Haikel Ouzahrir 'What I Wanna Do'

From the album: 'What I Wanna Do'
<https://www.facebook.com/haikelouzahrirmusic>

14. The Mileage 'Dreary Days In The Job Jungle'

From the album: 'More Mileage'
<https://www.facebook.com/TheMileageBand>

15. The Loose Tongues 'Bad Blues'

From the album: 'The Loose Tongues'
<https://www.facebook.com/theloosetongues>

Group 2: Heavy Metal, Power Metal, Symphonic Metal and Progressive Metal

16. Scream Maker 'Mirror, Mirror'

From the album: 'BloodKing'
<http://screammaker.com>

17. Reviver 'Into The Tomb'

From the album: 'A Thousand Lives'
<https://www.reviverofficial.com>

18. The Velvet SuperSloths 'Higher Fire'

From the album: 'The Velvet SuperSloths'
www.thevelvetsupersloths.com

19. Sabertooth 'Catnip'

From the album: 'Sabertooth'
www.facebook.com/Sabertoothpnw

20. Laufgast 'Mortality Is Solace'

From the album: 'Roots for Spears'
<https://www.facebook.com/Laufgast>

21. Hadron 'Evil Lady'

From the album: 'Evil Lady'
<https://www.hadron.dk>

22. Castellica 'Moment Of Glory'

From the album: 'Moment Of Glory'
www.castellica.com

23. Perpetual Escape 'Fire For Eternity'

From the album: 'Fire For Eternity'
<http://www.perpetual-escape.com>

24. Myrkvedr 'Gräben'

From the album: 'Gengångare'
<https://www.facebook.com/Myrkvedr>

25. Hellsike 'The Devil In Disguise'

From the album: 'Insanitarium'
<https://hellsike.bandcamp.com>

26. Isatha 'Pan'

From the album: 'From Here To Beyond'
www.facebook.com/isatha

27. Skjold 'Signals'

From the album: 'Celestial'
<https://www.facebook.com/skjoldband>

28. Zenitzsche 'Fantasy'

From the album: 'Ghost Of The Past'
<https://www.facebook.com/Zenitzsche>

29. Bengal 'Hypergalactic'

From the album: 'From Outer Space'
www.facebook.com/bengaltheband

30. Rob Phillips Siren 'Lawless Life'

From the album: 'Lawless Life'
<https://facebook.com.60MRecordsOnlineShop>

31. Emblazed 'Taking A Chance'

From the album: 'Baptized'
<https://www.facebook.com/EmblazedOfficial>

32. Timeless Haunt 'Embrace The Haunt'

From the album: 'Dark For Life'
www.TimelessHaunt.com

33. Induced 'Unstoppable'

From the album: 'Hidden Dimension'
<https://www.facebook.com/Inducedpl>

34. Mycellium Network 'Suited And Booted'

From the album: 'A Matter Of Love Or Death'
<https://www.facebook.com/mycelliumnet67>

35. Kardinal X 'St Agony'

From the album: 'The Revolution'
<https://www.facebook.com/kardinalx>

36. The Last Moment 'Carnival'

From the EP: 'A New Beginning'
<https://www.facebook.com/TheLastMomentofficial>

37. S.R. Heller 'The Eyes Of Destiny'

From the album: 'The Hollow Symphonic'
www.srhmusic.com

38. Midnight Street Of Rage 'Crazy Saloon...'

From the album: 'Modern Desert'
<http://www.midnightstreetofrage.com>

39. Basement's Glare 'Monster-Faced Angel'

From the album: 'Circus Of The Fallen'
<https://basementsglare.com>

40. Final Gravity 'No Love'

From the album: 'Surviving Humanity'
<http://www.finalgravitytheband.com>

41. Fading Chaos 'No Future'

From the album: 'Quietus'
<https://www.facebook.com/fadingchaos>

42. Aran Prog Project 'Origin'

From the album: 'EVO 'A Progressive Journey'
<https://aranprog.com>

43. Epic Tantrum 'Letting Go'

From the album: 'Abandoned In The Stranger's Room'
<http://www.epictantrum.com>

Group 3: Thrash, Death Metal, Metcore and Black Metal

44. Indign 'Exile'

From the album: 'Retribution'
<http://www.indignmusic.com>

45. Oscar Rangel's Avantgarde 'As Death'

From the album: 'Ghost Of Time'
<https://www.avantgardemusic.ca>

46. Breksir 'At The Gates Of Hell'

From the EP: 'At The Gates'
<https://www.facebook.com/BreksirOfficial>

47. Exorcizphobia 'Digitality'

From the album: 'Digitality'
www.exorcizphobia.bandcamp.com

48. Fall From Eden 'Denial Of Fate'

From the album: 'Grant Us Eyes'
<https://www.facebook.com/fallfromedenofficial>

49. Quad Machine 'Supremacy'

From the album: 'New Earth'
<https://quadmachine.bandcamp.com>

50. Hell Gun 'Revolution Blade'

From the album: 'Kings Of Beyond'
<https://www.facebook.com/bandaHellGun>

51. Phrenetix 'Blaze Of Alienation'

From the album: 'Phrenetix'
<https://www.phrenetixband.com>

52. Innasanatorium 'The Desire'

From the album: 'Odyssey Of The Mind'
<https://www.innasanatorium.com>

53. Irontree 'Chemical Sleep'

From the album: 'The Faceless'
<https://www.irontree.de>

54. B.E.E.R. 'Sick Prayer'

From the album: 'Blinded By Evil'
<https://www.facebook.com/B.E.E.R.Thrash>

55. Dawn of a Dark Age 'Le Forche Caudine (PL1)'

From the album: 'Le Forche Caudine 321 a.C. – 2021 d.C.'
<https://dawnofadarkage.bandcamp.com>

56. Wisdom & Fools 'No Way Out'

From the album: 'What Lies Beneath'
<https://www.facebook.com/wisdomandfools>

57. Prophets Tomb 'Pack-a-Punch'

From the album: 'The Third Wave'
<https://www.facebook.com/ProphetsTombBand>

58. Angel Rising 'Pull The Trigger'

From the album: 'Immortal Volition'
https://www.facebook.com/angelrisingofficial/?modal=admin_todo_tour

59. Lesson In Violence 'Thrash Metal Mankind'

From the album: 'The Thrashfall Of Mankind'
www.lessoninviolence.com

60. Hangman's Park 'Strife'

From the album: 'Eleven'
<https://www.facebook.com/hangmanspark>

Group 4: Hard Rock, Melodic Hard Rock and AOR

61. The Spiderhawks 'She's Waiting'

From the album: 'Travelling Light'
www.thespiderhawks.com

62. Kike Yomplian 'Mon Glamour'

From the album: 'Mon Glamour'
<https://goo.gl/3RLjhm>

63. 27 Dead 'Butterfly'

From the album: 'Living In Sin'
<https://www.facebook.com/20sevendead>

64. Hootenanny Freaks 'Eyes Of The Warrior'

From the album: 'Eyes Of The Warrior'
<https://www.facebook.com/HootenannyFreaks>

65. Five O Seven 'Higher Ground'

From the album: 'Turn On The Night'
<https://www.facebook.com/five0sevenband>

66. Soul Rash 'Welcome Home'

From the album: 'Covid Sessions'
<https://www.facebook.com/soulrashtheband>

67. Born Healer 'One Of These Days'

From the album: 'Herbs, Roots, Barks, Etc.'
<https://www.bornhealer.com>

68. Rip Ryde 'My Oh My'

From the album: 'A Taste For The Kill'
<https://www.facebook.com/Rip-Ryde-107470178591787>

69. Boneyard 'Gone'

From the album: 'Oathbreaker'
<http://www.boneyardrocks.ca>

70. Black Solstice 'Ember'

From the album: 'Ember'
<http://www.facebook.com/blacksolsticesthlm>

- 71. Sicadelica 'Tan Facil'**
From the album: 'En Silencio'
<https://www.facebook.com/sicadelica>
- 72. Lobster 'Two Walls'**
From the Single: 'Two Walls'
<https://www.facebook.com/rockhandlobster>
- 73. Laci Violet 'Snakebite'**
From the album: 'Laci Violet'
www.laciviolet.com
- 74. Restless 'Bad Addiction'**
From the album: 'Superload'
<https://www.facebook.com/restlessrocks>
- 75. Dark Water Collective 'From The Ashes'**
From the album: 'Waiting For Apophis'
<https://www.facebook.com/DarkWaterCollectiveMusic>
- 76. Ransom 'Divided State'**
From the album: 'Back To The Boozer'
<https://ransom.rocks>
- 77. Danny Veras 'Wanted Dead Or Alive'**
From the album: 'Under The Influence'
<https://www.facebook.com/dannyverasmusic>
- 78. 32AD 'Infinite Understanding'**
From the album: 'Enough For Me'
<https://www.facebook.com/32ADmusic>
- 79. Amplified! 'Make It Through'**
From the album: 'Mental Decay'
<https://www.amplifiedband.com>
- Group 5: Progressive Rock, Psychedelic and Instrumental**
- 80. Vienna Circle 'Secrets Of The Rising Sun'**
From the album: 'Secrets Of The Rising Sun'
www.viennacircle.bandcamp.com
- 81. Galaxy 'Talk To Me'**
From the album: 'Runaway Men'
<https://www.facebook.com/RunawayMen>
- 82. Deaton LeMay Project 'Music'**
From the album: 'The Fifth Element'
<https://deatonlemayproject.com>
- 83. Gabriel Keller 'Time (Feat. Emi B)'**
From the album: 'Clair Obscur'
<https://gabrielkeller.fr>
- 84. PRP 'Rubber Hands, Pt II -- Days'**
From the album: 'No Pristine Rubbery Perception'
<https://www.facebook.com/PRPprog>
- 85. Andrew Roussak 'Crossing The Line'**
From the album: 'Crossing The Line'
<http://www.andrew-roussak.com>
- 86. Snowman 'Gratitude'**
From the album: 'In A Better Place'
<https://www.facebook.com/snowmanprogrock>
- 87. Quicksilver Night 'Ameles Potamos'**
From the album: 'Asmptote'
<https://quicksilvernight.com>
- 88. PMI 'Find My Mood'**
From the album: 'Assorted Madness Layers'
<https://www.facebook.com/PepeMorenoIsia>
- 89. Kenny Bissett 'Radiate'**
From the album: 'The Balancing Act'
<https://www.kennybissett.com>
- 90. Joe Bailey 'Holmes Sweet Holmes'**
From the album: 'Devil in the white City'
<https://www.facebook.com/joebaileyuk>
- 91. Hanlon's Razor 'Paradigm'**
From the album: 'Paradigm'
<https://www.facebook.com/hanlonsrazorband>
- 92. The Black Flash 'Victim Of The Century'**
From the album: 'Remain in Darkness'
<https://www.facebook.com/theblackflashmusic>
- 93. Glacier 'The Man Who Cried'**
From the album: 'Island In The Sky'
<https://glaciermusicuk.co.uk>
- 94. Half Moon Panic 'Hold On Tight'**
From the album: 'Welcome To The Small Time'
<https://halfmoonpanic.co.uk/>
- 95. Vertical Hair Factory 'Afterlife'**
From the album: 'Afterlife'
<https://verticalhairfactory.bandcamp.com>
- 96. Syrek 'I Think It's A Monster'**
From the album: 'Story'
<https://www.terrysyrrek.com>
- 97. Christopher Wira 'Let The Love Shine'**
From the album: 'In The Darkness'
www.trellismusic.com
- 98. Ray Gilman 'Speechless'**
From the album: 'Speechless'
www.raygilman.com
- 99. Jimmy Ryan 'Starlord'**
From the album: 'Astral Café'
www.ryanetics.com
- 100. Dan Jones 'Disclosure'**
From the album: 'Zero Four Nine'
<https://www.facebook.com/danjonsguitaristuk>
- 101. Xavier Boscher 'Sea Serpent'**
From the album: 'Cosmic Variations'
www.xavierboscher.com
- 102. Arnaud Quevedo & Friends 'Prologue'**
From the album: 'Roan'
<https://www.arnaudquevedo.com>
- 103. Dimitris Galikias 'Octav Attack'**
From the album: 'Thoughts And Emotions In Unison'
<https://dimgall.bandcamp.com>
- 104. The Chapel Fire 'The Clout'**
From the album: 'Filters'
<https://www.facebook.com/TheChapelFire>
- 105. Two Headed Emperor 'Deracination'**
From the album: 'Deracination'
<https://www.facebook.com/twoheadedemperor>
- 106. Sónus 'Usurper Of The Universe'**
From the album: 'Usurper Of The Universe'
<https://www.facebook.com/sonusrocks/>
- 107. Siselabonga 'Yow Me De'**
From the album: 'YOW'
<http://siselabonga.com>
- 108. Two Headed Emperor 'Strange Sister'**
From the album: 'Deracination'
<https://www.facebook.com/twoheadedemperor>
- 109. Flying Rabbit 'In The Middle'**
From the album: 'Paradox'
<https://www.facebook.com/flyingrabbitband>
- 110. A Distorted Perception 'Left Of Us'**
From the album: 'The Plague Of One'
<https://www.facebook.com/ADistortedPerception>
- 111. Tao Of Lucy 'Black Sunday'**
From the album: 'In Lieu'
<https://www.taoolucy.com>
- 112. Brut Oss 'On-Off'**
From the album: 'Brut Oss'
<https://www.facebook.com/BrutOssStonerBand>
- Group 6: Alternative Rock And Metal, Indie, Goth, Stoner and Grunge**
- 113. Regulus 'Fuchsia'**
From the album: 'Pulse'
<https://regulusband.bandcamp.com>
- 114. No Names 'Days Of Fire'**
From the album: 'Piano 21'
www.no-names.it
- 115. City Weezle 'She's A Stonper'**
From the album: 'No 2'
<https://cityweezle.bandcamp.com>
- 116. Black Smiths 'Shaman's Dance'**
From the album: 'Southside'
<https://www.facebook.com/blacksmithsofficial>
- 117. Dak Houze 'Качаешь моё Солнце'**
From the album: 'Вечно живы'
<https://dakhouze.bandcamp.com/>
- 118. Skunkbone 'Endoscopy'**
From the album: 'Infirmity'
<https://www.facebook.com/skunkboneband/>
- 119. Love Your Witch 'Budha'**
From the album: 'Wow!'
<https://www.facebook.com/stonertrashwitches>
- 120. Airbus 'You'**
From the album: 'You'
<http://www.airbusmusic.com>
- 121. XCIII 'Red Lights'**
From the album: 'Void'
<http://www.xciii-music.fr>
- 122. Chris Wicked (feat. Gaahl) 'Aleine'**
From the album: 'Aliene'
<https://www.chriswicked.net>
- 123. Little Black Bird 'Crow'**
From the album: 'Little Black Bird'
<https://www.facebook.com/littleblackbirdband>
- 124. Victor Sierra 'The Witness'**
From the album: 'Imperfect Meridians'
<https://www.victorsierra.net>
- 125. Albert 'War Torn World'**
From the album: 'Crowned Julez'
<https://julianalbert.wixsite.com/albertaudio>
- 126. Frau Fleischer 'Fashion'**
From the album: 'When The Sun's Down'
<https://www.facebook.com/fraufleischerbandofficial>
- 127. Agents Of Exile 'Die Simple'**
From the album: 'Otherside'
<https://www.facebook.com/Agents-of-Exile-203380463040418>
- 128. Braindead Wavelength 'Life's Funny Ways'**
From the album: 'Life's Funny Ways'
<https://braindeadwavelength.bandcamp.com>
- 129. Affection 'Highway Of Denial'**
From the album: 'Remnants'
<https://www.facebook.com/affectionmusic>
- 130. Spacegoat 'Miasma'**
From the album: 'Catharsis'
www.spacegoatband.com
- 131. Yard Of Blondes 'Hummingbird'**
From the album: 'Feed The Moon'
<https://www.yardofblondes.com>
- 132. Virgins Of The Seven Seas 'Mountain'**
From the album: 'Bedrocan'
<https://www.vot7s.bandcamp.com>
- 133. Porcelain Shards 'Claws And Talons'**
From the album: 'Perfect Storm'
<https://facebook.com/PorcelainShards>
- 134. Amon The Sign 'I Believe In You'**
From the album: 'Hunger For Darkness'
<https://www.facebook.com/Amonthesign>
- 135. Shake Me 'Savage Love'**
From the album: 'Lullaby For Demons'
<http://www.shakemerecordsevents.com>
- 136. Antabus 'Stonebridge'**
From the album: 'Season Ender'
<https://www.facebook.com/Antabus-103557371815426>
- Group 7: The Editor's Collection**
- 137. Fluffer 'Angel High'**
From the album: 'Technonauts'
www.flufferrocks.com
- 138. Wicked Stone 'Say Goodbye To Yesterday'**
From the album: 'Synergy'
<https://www.facebook.com/wickedstonemusic>
- 139. Pressure 'Get A Real Job'**
From the album: 'In A Dark Heart We Tust'
www.xingrecords.com
- 140. My Diligence 'On The Wire'**
From the album: 'The Matter, Form And Power'
<https://www.facebook.com/mydiligence>
- 141. Bang Bang Firecracker 'Father Genocide'**
From the album: 'Hear Evil'
<https://www.facebook.com/Bangbangfirecracker>
- 142. Black Reuss 'Hole'**
From the album: 'Journey'
<https://www.facebook.com/blackreuss>
- 143. Deaton Lemay Project 'Music'**
From the album: 'The Fifth Element'
<https://www.facebook.com/DeatonLemayProject>
- 144. Cross Eyed Lover 'Gutter Crawl'**
From the album: 'Blonde Zombie'
<https://www.facebook.com/crosseyedlover>
- 145. The Now 'Rockstar'**
From the album: 'The Truth Always Come Out In The End'
<https://www.facebook.com/TheNowUK>
- 146. Man Machine Industry 'Information Overload'**
From the album: 'Eschaton I. Reckoning Day'
<https://www.facebook.com/manmachineindustry>
- 147. Hämärä 'Under The Sun'**
From the album: 'Ivory Tower'
<https://www.facebook.com/HamaraMetal>
- 148. Flush 'Weak And Wrong'**
From the EP: 'Conspiracies, Threats And Chaos'
<http://flush.rocks>
- 149. Elektrik Mistress 'Radio'**
From the EP: 'Chapter 99'
<https://www.facebook.com/ElektrikMistress>
- 150. The Injester 'The Ligament Necklace'**
From the album: 'A Spectacle To Behold'
<https://www.facebook.com/TheInjester>
- 151. Dampf 'The Other Side'**
From the album: 'The Arrival'
<https://www.facebook.com/dampf.official>

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the metal is
always hot!**

EDITORIAL

OK, I admit it, I got things wrong last month and I apologise unreservedly to anyone who was upset or offended, and also to the others on my team at Powerplay who I know have taken some stick because of last issue's The SoapGirls story and pictures which were not appropriate for Powerplay. I also need to apologise to their manager Sam Debray. I misheard/misunderstood one of our conversations in a noisy van and I need to clarify that she does not, as I incorrectly wrote in my story, have a criminal record. Speaking of inappropriate, I would like to just add that some of the things written about me on social media following the publication of last month's magazine were pretty damn offensive, but I'm grateful to those who took the time to express their views, negative though they were, in a constructive manner. At the end of the day I don't really care what people write about me; I have a job to do and I do it to the best of my ability, and I believe that the insults and vitriol tell you more about the people who have the time, will and anger to pour out such hatred on a lowly independent music magazine editor than they ever do about me. Sure, I get it, because what I do is in the public domain, every decision I make is open to criticism, but if the worst thing in your day is my editorial screw-up in a music magazine then I'd politely suggest that in this time of war in Europe and an impending world food crisis you might want to focus that energy into more worthwhile endeavours.

Anyway, back to business as usual, and Powerplay favourites Powerwolf whose visually spectacular 'The Monumental Mass' release should be investigated by anyone with an interest in the power metal genre. Originally broadcast as a livestream a little while after lockdowns had started to be eased and real live concert events were up and running again, mainly because the huge production took so long to create, it is a masterpiece example of a band making the very best of a bad situation.

Also this month Arch Enemy continue to cement their place at the top of the tree when it comes to death metal of the melodic kind with 'Deceivers', their third album since recruiting Alissa White-Gluz to fill the vocalist slot vacated by Angela Gossow, and Motionless In White are releasing their highly anticipated follow-up to 2019's 'Disguise'. That was my pick for album of the year back then and I'll be very surprised if anything in the latter half of 2022 can top their new offering 'Scoring The end Of The World' for me this year but I'll be happy if the universe wants to send a thousand great albums my way in an attempt to frustrate my prediction!

Finally this month, I have another one of our special feature that's done, dusted and has been ready to roll for a couple of months, but with so many incredible tours taking place I've had to put it on hold due to lack of space. As problems go, it's not one that I'll complain about. Maybe next time, eh? See you then.



Mark

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62 Rose Hill Road
Ashton-under-Lyne
OL6 8HR

Band: Irontree
Album Title:
The Faceless
Label: Independent
Genre: Abyssic(k)
Heavy Thrash Metal



Description:
Dark. Raw. Powerfull.

Influences for the album:
80's Speed and Heavy,
90's Black and Doom
with a shot of straight
Rock'n'Roll

Band Line-Up:
Brüllfe - vocals
Steffen - guitar
Soze - bass guitar
Mimi - drums

CD Track Listing:
1. False Gods
2. Thy Will Be Done
3. Drowning
4. Fall from Grace
5. Chemical Sleep
6. Crucified
7. Ghosts of the
Irontree
8. Dirt
9. March of the
Faceless

Hailing from Wiesloch, Germany we find Heavy Thrash Metal quartet **IRONTREE**, and the lads have an excellent new nine track album out now called "The Faceless" which runs in at just over forty-five

minutes long and is the bands debut album. It's half-past seven in the evening. The former shopping center where the band's rehearsal space is located is partially illuminated by the artificial light of the street-lamp. For the most part, this huge building is cloaked in shadow. This leaves the numerous car wrecks, containers and the shabby façade barely visible. A glorious eyesore in a stuck-up neighborhood. This is where Irontree feels at home. We walk up the stairs merely consisting of concrete foundation. The owner must have sold the stone plates. A gnarled tree rises-up next to the stairs. It's stem partially grows up and around the banister. With each passing year, Irontree has come to observe how nature has managed to push through this man-made concrete desert. Unflinching. Unstoppable. Guitarist Steffen unlocks the door and we enter. In the dim lighting of a swallow emergency light another staircase leads us further up, surrounded by all kinds of junk. Cases of beverages, empty containers, wine boxes, a tool kit, a doll - watching me with a fixed gaze. The band has taken me between them. Encircled me. They lead me upstairs, to the second floor. As we

reach the top, a motion sensor powers up a floodlight and I can see more.

This entire space in the midst of the building, about four hundred square meters, is also entirely crammed up with old cars, stolen shopping carts, shelves which, apparently without any kind of system ... hold things. More dolls with dead eyes. Basically, the only free space is the walkway that leads to the rehearsal room at the end of the hall.



Suddenly, the drummer Mimi takes a left and is gone. The rest of us are waiting in semi-darkness in front of the door. I can see singer Brüllfe (roaring fairy) smile and she says: "electricity". Then a 'click!' follows and the neon lights awaken to life with a buzz. Although it is lighter now, I can barely make out my surroundings. Too many shadows... even though another light looms out of the sound-proof windows of the rehearsal space. Mimi is back and Steffen

unlocks the doors to the actual rehearsal room. We enter. Cable chaos. Stacked speakers. The bass player Soze breathes in heavily and exclaims: 'home'. Everyone starts laughing while Mimi makes her way across the room and takes his seat behind the drum set. Brüllfe pushes a beer into my hand and Steffen meticulously closes the door behind us. I guess I won't leave this place anytime soon, is all I think while I take a sip. Bassist Soze tosses me a bag of earplugs before the band start up their amplifiers.



The first couple of warm-up songs are indeed played in a hellish volume. When the band is finished and happy, the sweat smells fresh and my beer is empty. They gather around me. As a band Irontree have a pretty long history and they have had a lot of names. "We started off as a cover band. Over

the past twenty years, members have come and gone. Our direction and style has changed every couple of years," explains Steffen. Brüllfe and Steffen stayed. "That's the reason we called ourselves Iron(h)tree. At least, until Soze joined us on the bass and we discarded the H." The combination of each band members personalities and musical preferences, and how their sound has ground makes the band stand out. "Everyone can insert themselves. So, we are not really that different from other bands, I guess – the mix of the influences is just a different one," he points out. Soze does not really have a concept of what makes Irontree different. "I can only see for myself that the other bands I have played with over the years, mostly Punk, always had a clear agenda what it's all about. The past ten years have shown me again and again, that here, there are no musical limits – everything is open. Everyone can find themselves in the music. It has been great for me to find really good friends and soulmates through music later in life – that fuses us together and somehow makes us different to all the other mercenaries in the bands out there," he tells me. They all have different tastes and

preferences in music from punk, thrash, classic, mainstream, rap, metal etc. to national as well as international. "Many different inspirations and ideas all come together which we, all in our own way, can work into our songs. That way, I think, we have a style that it not easily compartmentalized and that distinguishes us from the millions of other bands. One common thing we all share as a band, is that we like our songs.



Again and again, we have the best time celebrating the energy. Awesome," enthuses Mimi.

"There are a couple of things that make us unique, in my opinion," continues Brüllfe. "First and foremost, of course the compositions – they can barely be sorted into any of the established genres. This is not in any way our intention, as a kind of style – or a unique selling point, but that's the way it is, our music, it's just us! This becomes especially apparent at our gigs, we are not a studio band. The way I sing, that is somewhat

unusual. I would describe it as unfiltered and real. Which is meant without any judgment. Everyone has to decide for themselves if they like it or not. That is something that you can hear and feel. Especially women give me enthusiastic feedback after our gigs," he laughs.



Another aspect is perhaps, even though many other bands might share this feature, is that we are friends and have gone through life together over the past twenty years," She expresses. Ever since his early youth, Brüllfe has somehow always been involved with music. As a child he was forced to play the melodica – the epitome of a musical worst-case scenario and suffering through this kind of trauma can result in a legitimate reason to hate music for the rest of your life. "But whether consciously or not, I have always been surrounded by musicians (my first boyfriend at twelve was, later in life, a successful drummer). Early on I worked through various

music ideas with Ray Gerold, with whom I used to go to school. I spent a lot of time in the music store Session in Walldorf, in front and behind the bar making coffee," she explains to me. "As I bought my first bass at the age of 17 it just made sense to someday make music myself. Then in the year 2000, more as an act of defiance against the regional live bands which definitely did not correspond with my taste of really awesome music, the idea to start a band was born and the band formation took place in 2000."

Musically Steffen is into bands like Moonspell or Gorefest. Mimi, on the other hand, is hooked on Tool and Slipknot. Soze grew up in punk and crust and is therefore shaped by bands like Brother Inferior or Fall of Efra. "The inspiration comes from the time we spend together.

Lyrical, it culminates in socially critical topics that blend in, a little misanthropy as well and just the everyday emotions that each of us carries inside them and brings to rehearsal," explains Brüllfe.

When he is not writing or performing Steffen is also responsible for the technical side of the sound for Irontree.

"That's one part. I like to be creative as well. A little of this and a little of that. From programming

smaller programs, video editing and the production of our music, to writing books and short stories, as well as art work," he enthuses. "The thing that combines all of this is the computer. By now I would feel amputated without a computer. A mighty tool, no doubt. A double-edged sword? Indeed. Apart from that, I like pretty much everything one would expect of a metal lover. Fantasy, horror, Sci-Fi, PC-role playing games, shooter, alcohol and driving fast. I am a cliché, I'm afraid," he sighs. In his free time, Soze is clearly focused on his wife and daughter.



"The time is running away and everything you miss, won't come back. Especially when it comes to family," he points out. "That's where the energy should go. This also includes the small, former self-supporting farm with a

barn and garden. There's always something to do. While I work on my oldtimer-ratbikes, the bees also need to be taken care of – a time consuming endeavor, especially in spring and summer, that is rewarded later in autumn with honey. I make my own mead and am interested in Vikings. And, well, part of my free time is also invested in the management of the band."



For Mimi music always comes first. "I am also part of many other band projects with different musical directions which take up a lot of free time. Apart from that: mountain biking, fire wood, whittling wood, my family and extended family, Medieval clubs (drummer), festivals. In my non-free time, I work as software programmer. Good wine, whiskey, rum, gin, beer - and time and again conversations, oh yeah, and good food," he adds. Brüllfe has got a variety of things going on her free time. "Starting from ambitiously doing nothing, which hardly ever happens, to hyperactivity in regards to rock climbing or

kayaking. These are all part of it. Time with my family is very important to me. And I love books and movies. Fantasy and horror, bring it on! Okay, perhaps not that surprising, hihi ... I really love to cook, that might be more surprising. Or not," he laughs. "love spending time with my animals,'. Roaming through the woods with horses and dogs and hunting Orcs. Okay, the thing with the Orcs is not altogether true... Of course music also plays a big part in my time off. Work through vocal lines and lyrics for Irontree, for example. Hm, what else do I like? Sitting around a fire together with my friends, drinking beer and rum, oh yeah. Another cliché, but that's the way it is," he chuckles. 'The Faceless' is the band's new album, for you and me and everyone else on planet rock, but for the band it is pretty old. Over the years, they have played the songs every week, the objectivity is gone. "For me, the release of the album is somewhat like opening a door the record had kept closed before. It is finally done and now we can go on. It is a relief - surely related to the fact that I produced it. No one has listened to the songs as often as I have. From that perspective ... it's great that it's done,"

enthuses Steffen. "Musically, it is exactly how we like it: aggressive, edgy, gloomy, loud and with straight up gallows humor - which is something that we are definitely going to keep. We can't do it any other way. However, I think that in the future it is going to be more layered. I am excited about it." For Soze all of this was a pretty exciting process. Until now, he always only had to lay it down once and done – that's HC punk. But this time, it was important that it fits better. "You have to be on point," he continues. "Steffen was always by my side with all kinds of advice. That way, I learned a lot about software. Musically, it is fundamental to continue to evolve. I am excited about the critique – I do like criticism, even though short term I can't deal with it well and it's not always easy to handle. But, without it, I can't keep evolving and that is probably also true for the band." The new album means a lot for Brüllfe: "It is more than just any album: it is the result of many dreams, a lot of work, numerous attempts to get this album done – by the gods! That was really quite a challenge at some times. For me, the Faceless is a symbol of friendship. Of stamina

and passion. Of – be careful, it's about to get lofty – so many virtues that metal stands for. Yeah, I know. At this point I probably should shower the album with praise, regarding the musical aspects of it. But they are self-evident, I love our music," he says with spirit.

"I am crazy proud of our album. In part because the whole thing, from the first note to the last brushstroke of the artwork, was entirely created by us! It's okay to gush a little over that, isn't it," he smiles. For Mimi the pandemic, the social restrictions, the sealing off of their holy sound cell, that really wasn't easy. "Otherwise, I am sure the album would have been finished considerably earlier. It really hit all of us, the smaller and the larger acts. Steffen really did a great job, amazing! I think blood must have streamed from his ears at some point. I am proud of our work."

Irontree's last release was just a demo, which really was a complete do-it-yourself endeavor. "Every step was up to us. Now, to be able to hand off an element and making jack, really is different. We couldn't keep our fingers off the rest either. Steffen put a lot of work into the sound of the album. The artwork is considerably

more elaborate and there are shirts with our cover," explains Brüllfe "Oh, and the back and forth about how it should end up – we never have had so many discussions. It is also the first time that we get requests from all over Europe and even Russia after the release."

The band decided to start working on 'The Faceless' around four years ago. The album was recorded here in their own rehearsal room which they turned into a small studio. "Everything was completely cabled-up, we got the necessary equipment so we could record a clean sound. There were a couple of hurdles to overcome – I had laryngitis and the building that holds our rehearsal room was closed off for quite some time by the building authority – with all our things and recordings inside of it. Enter only on pain of punishment. We really produced it ourselves," she smiles. The highlight of the album for Brüllfe is that everyone had the opportunity to express themselves throughout 'The Faceless' with all its rough edges and their musical preferences. "I like it when people listen to the album and they don't know which label they can or should put on it," he expresses." There were some interesting

discussions about this. Some say that Abyssick Heavy Metal is the perfect fit, even though they are sick of hearing of new classifications of metal. I don't like this compartmentalizing, everyone should be the way that makes them happy and that they're okay with and that is also true for faceless – that we were able to achieve this is truly the highlight of the album," he says with satisfaction.

The bands planned concerts for 2020 were canceled and a couple are still on hold due to the pandemic situation. A few locations haven't reported back because they either haven't opened their business again or only host very restricted concerts. I would like to enter the stage regularly again and start a small tour through the South of Germany. Most of all, to be able to release all the pent-up energy on stage in a true catharsis. To just play gigs and be on the road," Brüllfe sighs. "We weren't able to see each other for quite some time because everything was in lockdown. Soze and I are both employed in the social field and Steffen also has a lot to do with people. That meant distance for us. All in all, I felt, I'm going to speak for the others as well, that we were undoubtedly

thwarted since we were just about to take off. I wasn't too enthusiastic about trying to make music together online. I was missing the spirit of the rehearsal space.



However, I did get used to a new medium through which we can interact together and now we are using the newly set up Discord Server to communicate." For the future the guys have a lot in the works. "I'm already working on the lyrics for new songs that the boys are just constructing. When I tidied up the rehearsal room, I came across fragments of songs as well as written down riffs. That's what we are working on. In order to release more creative energy, Mimi and Soze are going to expand the rehearsal room. The plan is to have a platform for the drum set and a larger seating area to hang out. Steffen will surely create a couple of videos – the recordings are already

done and a video with lyrics would also be great. Since we didn't manage to get all the song on the album, there will be a little subsequent release" concludes Brüllfe, bringing an end to our conversation. 'The Faceless' is out now via all the usual digital platforms and also on physical CD.

Check Irontree out at:

<https://www.iron-tree.de>

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<https://bit.ly/3c6aZU5>

<https://theiron-tree.bandcamp.com/>

<https://spoti.fi/3He6MM>

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<https://amzn.to/3wH5X>

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