

# Metal Only

Das einzig WAHRE Metalradio im Netz!

Band: Iron Fire (DK)  
Genre: Heavy / Power Metal  
Label: Crime Records  
Albumtitle: Among The Dead  
Duration: 45:53  
Releasedate: 18.09.2016



Copenhagen's Power Metal band Iron Fire is already existing for 21 years and meanwhile delivering its eighth album. Embellished with an awesome artwork that appears just like Dawn of the Dead would meet Mad Max Fury Road and that lets the metallic heart's expectations grow.

After an epic introduction with radio play-like parts the new album starts with its title track "Among The Dead", and after that melodic entrance the listener already can guess what he (I myself in this case) even anticipated.

As the band, meanwhile shrunk from five to three members, already implied on the album's predecessor, they discovered a new "stylistic device". Again and again the really great voice of singer Martin Steene, always appreciated by me, nonsensically turns into inappropriate growling. This guy has a great, powerful voice with an high recognition value, and therefore he definitively do not need a spitting like this. As a fan of the early stages, I feel like I were slapped in the face. This tendency of an ingratiating towards a younger audience is growing like mould within Power Metal even for a while, and obviously it will always stay unexplainable to me.

Furthermore, one also emphasizes strength and aggressiveness instead of epic melodies, thrilling riffs or catchy refrains. After this opening fell flat quite uncomfortably, the following second song complies with the sonorous title "Hammer Of The Gods" and starts traditionally melodic, which raises hopes. In front of us we have a mid-tempo banger that finally reminds of ancient times and, lo and behold, stands for itself without harrying spitting.

The following third song can put forward another new facet. The video release of "Tornado Of Sickness" in advance appears like they suddenly want to conquer the Thrash Metal genre. Hammering Thrash riffs are lacking just as little as the already mentioned growling, and I have to ask myself if the band is simply quite unsure in which direction they want to set sail.

Well, of course one can interject that one should not be that pathetic but open for broadening one's horizon. But then singer Martin Steene also should reactivate his second band "Force Of Evil", because there he can grunt until his larynx is exploding, instead of showing his middle finger to the long-established fans. The problem with this is not the songs itself, but the effect of listening to basically good songs with a lowered head and to bite one's tongue every time when some modern elements are destroying the composition again like a foreign object.

If I would want to listen to such an experiment, I would choose bands like Unleash The Archers, that always have been playing like this. But here it only sounds strange to me and spoils the fun of listening to most of the new songs, whose rating otherwise would have been quite better. But to speak about the good sides of the album as well, I have to admit that the whole CD is produced properly.

The band still sounds like they would consist of five instead of three members and their manual skills handle everything from neck crushing riffs up to great and well-timed guitar soli.

Further song highlights that can send the older fans into rapture, are the hymnal mid-tempo banger "Iron Eagle" and the pleasant ballad "When The Lights Go Out".

One can discuss about sense and nonsense of the cover version of Metallica's "For Whom The Bell Tolls", stuffed into a bonus track, in my opinion it is just on average.

Conclusion:

Neither meat nor fish, unfortunately. Iron Fire deliver an album with high quality but content-related uncertainty, therefore it remains unclear whether it wants to lie at the feet of a younger audience or to please the established fans with new hymns. I leave really perplexed and have to ask myself if a career break with a return to old values and therefore a comeback of the "old" band won't be that a bad idea. But this is solely my own humble opinion. Fans of "brave" or "experimental" Power Metal albums that enrich traditional values with modern elements will obviously find the holy grail with this. Anyhow, this chalice passed me as far as possible.

Rating: 5/10

Recommendations: Hammer of the Gods, Iron Eagle, When The Lights Go Out

Weblink: <http://www.ironfire.dk/> , <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Iron-Fire/196017710557>

Lineup:

Martin Steene – Vocals, Bass

Kirk Backarach – Guitars

Gunnar Olson - Drums

Tracklist:

01. Intro (The Lost City)
02. Among the Dead
03. Hammer of the Gods
04. Tornado of Sickness
05. Higher Ground
06. Iron Eagle
07. Made to Suffer
08. The Last Survivor
09. No Sign of Life
10. Ghost from the Past
11. When the Lights go out
12. For whom the Bell Tolls (Metallica Cover) (Bonus Track)

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