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The Iron Maidens

[CD]

By: T.J.

One of heavy metal's most influential and timeless artists is a band that any true metal fan knows. Whether it be something from their groundbreaking self titled debut album, their Somewhere In Time release, or to their more modern efforts such as Brave New World and Dance of Death, everyone knows of Iron Maiden. The reason it is important to understand what Iron Maiden has done not just for metal, but for music in general is mainly because of their ability to influence many artists. There are many bands out there who have taken a page or two out of Maiden's book, but there is only one band out there that has an entire chapter in it...The Iron Maidens.

The world's only female tribute to Iron Maiden formed in 2001 in Southern California. The band takes three of its five members from the hard rock/metal act Phantom Blue, showing that these ladies aren't just 'cover girls', but indeed are finely tuned metal making machines. When one thinks of Iron Maiden, they think of song structures, dueling guitar work, impeccable drumming, and masterful bass playing but over everything else, they think of the vocals. Aja Kim (a.k.a. Bruce Lee Chickinson) more than does Bruce justice. In the metal music scene, I'm not sure if I've heard better female vocals. As far as the rest of the band in concerned, my hat goes off to them. Wanda Ortiz (Steph Harris) on bass, Linda McDonald (Nikki McBURRain) taking care of the drum duties, and Sara Marsh (Mini Murray) along side with Josephine Draven (Adrienne Smith) shredding it up on guitar, give it their all and no better outcome could be expected.

Some of these tracks sound just like the originals, all while the Maidens add their own special touch to it. I think one main reason the album sounds so much like Maiden is because they use actual amps and cabinets that Steve Harris used. Adding to the novelty of it all, Derek Riggs (yes thee Derek Riggs that created Eddie) has done the artwork for the bands debut release. On top of that, the band recorded the album at Silver Cloud Studios where Bruce Dickinson recorded some of his solo albums. So if you haven't gotten the picture yet, Iron Maiden lives deep within the souls of these fine ladies.

The album consists of 11 songs, one of which is a hidden track, and ranges in songs from the 1980 release of Maiden's self titled debut album through 1986's Somewhere in Time. All of the songs on here are fan favorites, or what could be considered singles, so needless to say, this will appeal to amolst everyone. I was very pleased because two of my favorite Iron Maiden tracks are covered-"Children of the Damned" and the hidden "Remember Tomorrow". Other songs include "Two Minutes to Midnight", "Killers", "Wasted Years" and "Hallowed Be Thy Name" just to name a few. One thing that I really liked about the album is that on the final track "Hallowed Be Thy Name", it sounds like the band releases all their pent up energy and aggression and has the best guitar solo on the

album.

What more can be said? For those hardcore Iron Maiden fans who might be skeptical about giving The Iron Maidens a chance, don't be. I guarantee you they're worth checking out and the album is worth buying. Absolutely fantastic!

www.theironmaidens.com

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