



Mudvayne

BECAUSE WE LIKE THAT “DIG” SONG A WHOLE LOT more than we let on, and because his band’s new self-titled album dropped last month, we sent **Mudvayne** vocalist **Chad Gray** seven MP3s, each identified only by title. Here’s what our favorite formerly-facepainted frontman had to say about our selections.

TRACK ●●●●●●●●
01 **Raise the Red Lantern**, “Awaken”
from: Raise the Red Lantern
 [THE SKINNY] **But please lower the Green Lantern movie**



I’m never really sure how to classify bands like this. The drums say, “I’m extreme,” but the gain on the guitar and the vocals don’t. I love the emotion of the raw recording, but I would like to see the song thought out a bit more. The dual guitar harmony towards the end is really cool, but would scream if you pushed up the gain a bit. Williamsburg would love this. They’d be right at home on a bill with Made Out of Babies.

TRACK ●●●●●●●●
02 **Dethklok**, “Comet Song”
from: The Dethalbum II
 [THE SKINNY] **The thought of “Dethklok-influenced” acts is fucking terrifying**



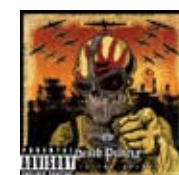
Great opening riff. Circle pit! This is a song to drive fast and club people with a baseball bat out the window to. Ah, good thing that change just hit. Even a good riff played too long is bad. I love this tempo. It reminds me of a slightly less over-the-top Dethklok, but I haven’t heard the new stuff, so maybe they just calmed down a bit. Solo that turns into a drone ending? Awesome.

TRACK ●●●●●●●●
03 **Converge**, “Dark Horse”
from: Axe to Fall
 [THE SKINNY] **Only some guys from the letters section aren’t on board with this**



Wow, this is either Mastodon or some guys who really love Mastodon. Nope, this is Converge. So good. Their music reminds me of what it must be like to be inside Mickey Knox’s head during a killing spree. Love that lead line. Their music always reaches that beautiful spot that sounds like they’re right on the brink of playing so fast it all falls apart, but they never do. It is absolutely impossible to stand still listening to Converge.

TRACK ●●●●●●●●
04 **Five Finger Death Punch**, “Hard to See”
from: War Is the Answer
 [THE SKINNY] **Hopefully the last time anything in this magazine is compared to Breaking Benjamin**



Promising start. That’s a nice melody. I was not expecting those vocals, though. I just checked the link and this is still what *Decibel* sent me. I have to say I’m a bit confused here. This sounds like Breaking Benjamin or Five Finger Death Punch. Alright. So, it’s a decent pop-metal song. Just heavy enough to be tough, but with enough melody to have a shot at radio. I would love just a touch more aggression, though.

TRACK ●●●●●●●●
05 **Hatebreed**, “In Ashes They Shall Reap”
from: Hatebreed
 [THE SKINNY] **Jägerbombs!**



Hatebreed. There is no one else in the world that has been able to do so much with one note. I really like the positive lyrics, and I think you’ll be hard-pressed to find an artist who’s done more for heavy music than Jamey [Jasta]. I personally like a bit more diversity in the songs I listen to and Hatebreed can end up feeling a bit like a sermon at times, but if you want to get a crowd jumping, this is it.

TRACK ●●●●●●●●
06 **Nile**, “Permitting the Noble Dead to Descend Into the Underworld”
from: Those Whom the Gods Detest
 [THE SKINNY] **We totally had to look up “Cherti”**



Before this track even starts, I’m going to guess Nile from that title. So, is this a plea to the Cherti? Let’s hit play and see. Bin-go. I thought I read in the last issue of *Decibel* that these guys had never actually been to Egypt. Probably a good thing, as I would expect what’s left of the ruins to come down from the godlike thunder of their sound.

TRACK ●●●●●●●●
07 **Shining**, “Plågoande O’Helga Plågoande”
from: VI - Klagopsalmer
 [THE SKINNY] **You axed for it**



I have no idea how to pronounce that title. That’s a nice thick doomy intro, though. Not a big fan of the vocals. They kind of sound like what I would expect to hear if someone was getting knifed to death in the next room. Whoa, acoustic guitars? Someone has been listening to Opeth. I like the clean vocal tone, though. Very peaceful. I saw the build-up to the solo coming a mile away. And, back to getting knifed to death. Really just makes me want to listen to Opeth. OK, that end is cool, though. Nice and creepy. [4B]

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