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# Music Box Dancer



Intensely heavy, nuanced and experimental, the record was a radical musical statement of intent; a stunning synthesis of Warrior and Ain's disparate influences. From the furious opening riff of "Into The Crypts Of Rays" through to the avant-garde experimentation of "Danse Macabre", "Morbid Tales" heralded the arrival of CELTIC FROST as a profoundly unique and uncompromising band. New Yorker Reed St. Mark joined CELTIC FROST as a permanent member in February 1985, replacing session drummer Stephen Priestly, and the trio recorded the "Emperor's Return" EP in April '85, at Noise's request. Featuring the first recording of the essential "Circle Of The Tyrants", the EP is a solid snapshot of the sheer fanaticism that was the lifeblood of Tom and Martin in particular. "To Mega Therion" was CELTIC FROST's next album, recorded in September '85. Due to personal difficulties, Martin was not in the band at that point, and so bass duties for the recording were carried out by session player Dominic Steiner. Martin's absence also meant that Tom was responsible for the music and virtually all of the lyrics. But despite difficult circumstances, the resulting album, however, was a triumph. Replete with iconic cover art by HR Giger, "To Mega Therion" imposes its dark majesty from the off with the orchestral bombast of "Innocence And Wrath", before launching into the savagery of the hook-laden "The Usurper", jagaxitituga.pdf Daring, dark and superlatively heavy, "To Mega Therion" is a sophisticated expression of CELTIC FROST's inherent drive to eschew genre limitations and, instead, define art on their own terms. Ain was soon brought back into the fold and a few songs from "To Mega Therion" were re-recorded and remixed with Harris Johns, emerging as the excellent sounding "Tragic Serenades" EP. It, and CELTIC FROST's previous releases, increasingly received critical acclaim, which emboldened the band to take more risks, to push the boundaries of heavy music even further with their next album. Recorded in Hanover at the start of 1987, "Into The Pandemonium" was not an easy album to make, the band's experimental ambitions often at odds with their label's concerns. But, despite these obstacles, the band defended their artistic vision and the result is an astonishing piece of avant-garde art. The album's experimentation is still striking today, challenging how we perceive heavy music and what it means to take music risks. Only CELTIC FROST could create an album which kicks off with a singular cover of a new wave song (WALL OF VOODOO's "Mexican Radio") and immediately follow it up with the mournful tragedy of "Mesmerized". "Into The Pandemonium" was the last recording made by this era of CELTIC FROST, bringing to an end a period of incredible creative and artistic growth over what was a remarkably brief period of time. That the teenagers who recorded "The Third Of The Storm" and "Triumph Of Death" for the HELHAMMER EP would, despite constant turmoil, be recording the jaw-dropping "Rex Irae" just three years later is astonishing. "Danse Macabre" captures the radical ambition and evolution of CELTIC FROST from 1984 through to 1987. In addition to the albums "Morbid Tales", "To Mega Therion" and "Into The Pandemonium", the marble color vinyl box set also includes the "Emperor's Return", "Tragic Serenades" and "I Won't Dance" EPs, along with "The Collectors Celtic Frost" compilation, a 7" of "Visual Aggression" and a cassette of rehearsals recorded at the band's Grave Hill Bunker. century\_usg1102 manual A 12" x 12", 40-page book, brings together photography — some previously unseen — from the era and brand new interviews with Tom Gabriel Warrior and Reed St Mark. A Heptagram USB drive contains MP3 audio of all the albums, including bonus tracks. A "Danse Macabre" woven patch, a double-sided poster, and a Necromaniac Union fan club enamel badge complete the set. "Danse Macabre" is also available as a five-CD box set with a 40-page book, badge, poster and patch.