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Album Review: Within The Ruins - Phenomena II



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The American metalcore band **Within The Ruins** is releasing their seventh studio album **Phenomena II** on August 23rd, 2024. This album is the sequel to **Phenomena I**, released 10 years ago.

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Band Members

- Joe Cocchi – guitars
- Kevin McGuill – drums
- Paolo Galang – bass, clean vocals
- Steve Tinnon – lead vocals





The Songs

1. *Castle in the Sky*. Keys, growls, and then the heavy instruments drop, changes in rhythm, a bleurgh, and a demolishing sound. A great way to start an album, a good guitar solo, and guitarwork. Inspired by **The Punisher**, about a war veteran.

Within The Ruins - Castle in the Sky (Official Music Video)





2. *Daywalker*. It follows the intensity of the previous song, heavy on the keyboards too. The guitar lines remind me sometimes of power metal which are present throughout the album. There is also a great breakdown.

3. *Demon Killer*. It starts very progressive with synths in the background, then the growls and the heavy instruments drop. It has a video game vibe and is inspired by **Constantine**.

4. *Level 12*. An instrumental with low bass and the guitars executing sound effects similar to that of video games.

5. *Eater of Worlds*. Carries on the heavy vibe with intense power and dramatic orchestral choirs.



6. *The Last Son*. Epic choirs and vibe. Nice guitar solos. A bit of clean vocals almost at the end. This track is inspired by **Superman**.

Within The Ruins - The Last Son (Official Music Video)





7. *Chaos Reigns*. The guitar kicks off and then drums come with all the power along with the rest of the instruments and growls. Angelical choirs, gaming guitar sound effects towards the end.

8. *Death Mask*. Another instrumental which has more of a classic heavy metal style.

9. *Corruption*. This track begins with a devastating scream, heavy on a more progressive style with djent-heavy guitars. The guitar solo changes the song to other styles like classic heavy metal and a bit of sludge, then it returns to metalcore with the video game guitar.

10. *A World on Fire* is an incredibly heavy track with a bit of clean vocals in the bridge to counteract the growls and screams.



11. *Enigma II*. The sequel of '*Enigma*' off the **Phenomena** album of 2014. This is another instrumental which is super heavy and fast. Although all the instruments sound super clear and amazing, I especially liked the drums here.



The band shows throughout the album, how skilled they are as musicians. An underrated band that deserves more popularity and attention. The guitar leads the way into a video game world type of sound, with a **Yngwie Malmsteen** virtuosity in some parts. The bass and drums set the pace and support the guttural growls on top. Their sound is strong with low tuning and the album could be the perfect soundtrack whilst you're playing a video game.

Rating: 8/10

Release Date: August 23rd, 2024

Released By: MNRK Heavy

FFO: After The Burial, All Shall Perish, Winds Of Plague





TRACKLIST

- 1) Castle in the Sky
- 2) Daywalker
- 3) Demon Killer
- 4) Level 12
- 5) Eater of Worlds
- 6) The Last Son
- 7) Chaos Reigns
- 8) Death Mask
- 9) Corruption
- 10) A World on Fire
- 11) Enigma II