

In the metal community, it seems to always be 'Dream Theater this' or 'Dream Theater that'. To a newcomer to prog metal, it could seem like the group are the only one of its kind or at least that they're the undisputed champions. Not so, The Odyssey by Symphony X is a very strong album, for example. Why isn't it more well known? It could be because of the band name itself - it suggests it's ever so slightly edgy classical music. (X is perhaps the coolest of all letters, I mean). If you're in a CD shop and you see 'Symphony X' you might think to yourself 'Hm. How did that get in the metal section', right? 'Stupid youngsters causing trouble'.

Actually, maybe not. People don't think Dinosaur Jr. are literally a band of dinosaurs shrunk into a small CD case or they don't think Iron Maiden releases are medieval torture devices in similar containers. People don't think Guns and Roses are literally weapons and plants, either. That would make going into HMV one of the most if not THE most fascinating experiences on the planet. So much to see! Yet the establishment are struggling. What kind of spoilt population could ever be bored with such amazing spectacles? It would make it seem like your granny was justified when she said to you 'you don't know how lucky you are' all those times. But to be clear, she was just plain annoying.

The album's song 'The Odyssey' is certainly very epic, but is it a symphony? I don't know. But even if it was, that of course doesn't make Dinosaur Jr. a band of young dinosaurs, so what does it matter? What can't be denied is the fact the piece is expertly written. That is in contrast to Venom's 'epic' 20 minute long song 'At War with Satan' which kind of sounds like random ideas thrown together. Unless the band are trying to battle satan by confusing and boring him, but I don't think that's the case. Even if it was, it's not fun for humans to listen to, either. I'd respect the band for being genuinely innovative, but not for being good. The band are noted for having terrible production, too. Whether that's intentional or not seems to be unclear - different sources say different things. In either case, it's not exactly good, is it?

What else is good about The Odyssey? Well, it's an odyssey, isn't it? We all need some form of adventure in this period of lockdown. Not everyone would admit escaping things by listening to my Special Electronica album. That's fine, I understand, it's more experimental than most people are used to. Although my song 'Aaargh! No. 1' is worth checking out because it features one of the only major-minor chords you'll ever hear in your life. I didn't mention that at the time of posting because I didn't want to sound arrogant. I've just had a change of heart. Are there better ways out there to escape from things? Well, not many. I can't even get GBK milkshakes anymore, which is very sad. Don't cry though, because I've found a replacement: Medium sized bottles of ginger beer! Something new and roughly as unhealthy. Let's not go crazy and get litre bottles! We must stay sane! Bye! (9/10)