

'Issues' by Korn starts off with the singer going 'all I want in life is to be happy' over and over. Here's a thought: Why not write a happy song? I've heard around 50 songs by the group, and NONE of them are even the slightest bit cheerful. I don't mean to sound cold, but could it be the singer's own fault? Why doesn't he put some relaxing pan pipe music on from time to time? (Like me). 'But that's weird.' Yeah, not as weird as an American playing the bagpipes. What is this guy's problem? Interestingly, Steve Vai himself praised this band and in particular the guitarists who use the whole range of their 7 string guitars. (That's not necessarily difficult, but I know what he means). Is that making Korn sound better or Steve Vai sound worse? It's like John Williams saying to GG Allin (if he was still alive), 'hey, your music's awesome!' I at least would be thinking '... errrr, what?' Ok, I've massively exaggerated, but I'm sure at least some of Vai's fans would be thinking something similar. Not me though, I like Korn.

What are the highlights of this album? At risk of contradicting myself, I like the bagpipes. They give an eerie and certainly unique effect. Now what to talk about? Hmm... Oh well, I've got a paragraph. This is certainly going better than my unfinished and abandoned Meshuggah review, where I just kept talking about pizza all the time. It wasn't even funny it was just weird. Will it ever see the light of day? Not in its current form, anyway. However, I did make at least one valid point: The new Papa John's stuffed crust pizza seems to have been downgraded. Either that or my mind has been messed with somehow, perhaps through Mesh's ultra complicated rhythms. Who knows? Back to Korn! Are the rhythms complicated with them? Nope. Does that matter? Nope. This is a band for moshing to. Unlike with Mesh doing so is actually possible, and you can sing along to the nu-metallers with ease. (If you're mental, that is - again, the words are not exactly fun-loving). One can only imagine what an unpredictable Mesh concert looks like with the audience surely 'singing' completely different things at different points because they're so confused. Yep, that band again. I guess I didn't waste all my time writing about them, I saved a few ideas. But to be clear, I'm still probably not going to finish that particular critique because it WAS strange.

Anyway, Korn again, again: What's with the tatty teddybear on the album cover about? Just because it's in bad condition, doesn't mean it's scary if that's what the band are going for. Babies are notoriously easy to freak out (in that they can't handle anything much more intense than Peppa Pig and brutal band The Spice Girls), yet are they put off by broken teddies? No. In fact, many babies break such toys on purpose. Are Korn going for a children's music feel? Certainly not. Having looked at the evidence, I simply don't understand the musician's motivations. At the risk of sounding disorganised (ah, who cares?), I'm going back to the subject of happiness. Another lyric goes 'I'm not happy'. That's a particularly pointless one as the music behind it is so dark and heavy. It would be funny if he said he wasn't happy over some ultra-positive bluegrass music, but sadly I'm never going to see the day that happens. (Unless the band lighten-up when they realise some things about their lifestyles are actually pretty cool. I want a Ferrari, or whatever. Singer John Davis has some neat if pointless gadgets in his house, too, I saw it on Youtube).

What's annoying about this album is the way it ends with loads of fuzzy noises. The excited new listener would see the CD player saying the LP's really long, but in fact a reasonably large portion of it is a form of sonic torture. Woohoo. You don't even get a

hidden song, unless you're a John Cage fan and consider minutes of silence to be really deep and entertaining. But is fuzz better than silence? Unfortunately the minimalist composer will never be able to comment because he's now dead. I guess think about that question for yourselves? You're likely to be no less intelligent than a man who didn't seem to know what music actually is, despite calling himself a musician. :S To sum up, put this release on if you like good music, but NOT if you like things to make any sort of sense. You know what? I for one don't care about things being extremely illogical, which is why you may have noticed I've added an atonal song to my site. Does it use a really advanced compositional method? No. A child could understand it with ease, you just choose twelve notes and reverse them if you're feeling fancy. So here comes the score: 9/10! Bye!