

Today I'll be reviewing the live album 'The Number of the Beast', performed by Dream Theater. (sic) Heavy metal fans will know TNoftB was first an Iron Maiden studio album. So DT have covered it in a way that is super interesting? That's what I was hoping for, sadly it wasn't to be. How about just plain interesting? Not everything has to be SUPER interesting, right? Again, not to be. I have to be honest, pretty much all of the music has been covered note for note! It's like a respected group of actors rehearsing a Shakespeare play over and over again and just changing a few words, what's the point?? I know I often exaggerate in these reviews, I exaggerate a lot even, there's no stopping me, but no that is how I see the album being discussed. I mean I like it because I like the original album, but yeah, what was the point? But you know what? Sometimes I waste my time, too. :) Ok, ok, the guitar solos have been changed a bit. How? Well, DT's John Petrucci added more notes to them and sped them up. Of course he did, who didn't see that one coming? To make another Shakespeare comparison, it's like a group of respected actors rapping bits of the play. Very odd. Having said that, at least I compared John to a well respected playwright. I do actually see him as a musical Shakespeare!

The soft and sweet pianos in song 'Children of the Damned' are a bit weird, when combined with the lyrics such as 'if he'd have lived he'd have crucified us all.' Are the band trying to say something like 'sure the children of the damned want to torture us to death, but you know what? I feel bad for them.' Why??? It's not just that the keys are soft, I'd go further and describe them as sentimental! THAT'S odd, the band don't have fond memories of the evil children do they? The end of the song is far heavier however, and the singer goes 'you'll burn again tonight!' Talk about mixed messages. Maybe that was done to get back at the damned children. I get that. For whatever reason, neither Iron Maiden or Dream Theater (sic) can say 'vengeance' properly. In the Maiden track 'The Prisoner' it should apparently be 'if you kill me, it's self defence, if I kill YOU then I call it vengeance' but it sounds more like 'if I kill you I call it rev-yance!' or maybe 'revvy ants (i.e. ants in cars). In contrast, DT sound more like 'if I kill you, I call it red pants!' I'm wondering why. Maybe the latter band have no idea what Maiden said and just guessed what to say. Sure the live LP was recorded way back in 2002, but even then the musicians could have done some internet research, just a lot slower than researching today. Either that, or they could just read the lyrics in the album notes? I mean if they're a fan of the band, they should have them? If they're not fans, what the flip was going on in their heads?

Ok, ok, not EVERY song has been severely mimicked, track 'Gangland' has actually been changed quite drastically and to be fair if any song needs to be changed it's that, as it's regarded as the weakest song on the album. However... has it been improved? No. Well it will likely be improved in your opinion in a way if you like jazz instrumentations, but what's jazzy about the lyrics 'dead men tell no tails, in gangland murder's up for sale'?? Even if jazz fusion guitarist Allan Holdsworth covered the song with his dark atonal playing, I'd still be surprised. Here's a real jazz lyric: 'The falling leaves drift by the window.' Similarly sophisticated Beethoven wrote some pretty dark and heavy music, but did he ever write lyrics such as 'a knife at your throat another body on the pile, a contract to keep and it's service with a smile'? NO! Once again, I forget what my point was. Something to do with incongruity. On the plus side, this album is performed pretty well considering it's live. There is a tiny bit of scrappiness sometimes in the guitar solos which isn't surprising when you consider how fast they are, but again things would have been better if they were

slower anyway. Melody! It's important! You do get treated to some keyboard solos in the release but they're not melodic either. On the whole, what rating do I give it? 8.5 out of 10! Pretty good, but the original album gets a 10 out of 10 so actually not so good. Bye!