



in review

Mortal Kombat: More Kombat
Various Artists
(TV Soundtrax)

This CD could be seen from two angles— either as a way to easily sell a lot of units by name alone (since this is not in fact a soundtrack to any movie), or as an interesting mixture of sounds and styles that closely resembles the original soundtrack to the movie.

Fans of the first CD will not be disappointed— there are the requisite high-energy techno tracks (from Psykosonic and Alien Factory), the hard/heavy metal tracks (from Sepultura and Crawlspace), the tracks that seem to try to sound like a combination of 311 and Gravity Kills (from *God Lives Underwater* and), and surprising tracks from semi-well known artists (like what is Babylon Zoo doing on this CD?). The most interesting tracks on this CD, however, are those that try to bridge the gap between metal and dance, resulting in a sort of hard-core techno that makes this CD listenable, but not completely enjoyable. If you're a fan of the original soundtrack, this is definitely your type of CD.

No Mercy
No Mercy

If you like dance music, you'll probably like No Mercy's self-titled CD. It's a collection of light dance beat tunes that will make almost anyone want to get up and dance. Strong vocals, powerful arrangements and Latino rhythms make this CD a "must have" for any dance music lover.

The first track "Where Do You Go" was a popular radio tune when this CD was released. Its fast pace, harmonies and Spanish guitar arrangement are great to hear and event more fun to dance to. Another great dance song is "Bonita", which No Mercy sings in Spanish. These three guys really pumped up this love song. The arrangement is fun and lively -- pleasant to listen to. The ballad "When I Die" is a tender piece which goes straight to my heart. (It's really romantic) It's lyrics are beautifully written: "I'll be your angel up in heaven / Forever all my love will shine on you."

No Mercy's self-titled release is a nice light CD. It has a great dance beat feel, but is not overpowered by booming bass drums and sound effects. The lyrics are well written, and even though all the songs are love songs, it is anything but "sappy." This would be a great CD for a party or dance. I really enjoyed this CD, NO Mercy gets a 4 out of 5 stars.

Mary Jane Lamond
Suas e!

This 1997 release *Suas e!* was sponsored by the Canada Council Touring Office to promote traditional Celtic music. It is a pleasant collection of love songs, dance songs and ballads -- all in the Gaelic language. At first, I thought this would just be a simple presentation of traditional music, but Mary Jane Lamond surprised me by going all out with amazing harmonies and arrangements.

The CD begins with a spinning song "Oran Snimoh." The steady beat of a spinning wheel, heard throughout the song, prompted mental images of women in old settlements spinning wool and singing. The arrangement for this song is relatively simple and very traditional. Lamond also uses more modern arrangements as in "Boga' Lochain" which has a modern Rawlins Cross flavour. I was inspired to break out my stepping shoes and dance along with "Horo Ghoid Thu Nighean", but, since I had none, I just tapped along to its energetic rhythm and happy feel.

After listening to *Suas e!*, I really wished that I had taken some Gaelic lessons. The music was great and the lyrics sounded beautiful, but I wish I knew what she was saying! This is one of the finest traditional music CD's I have ever heard; for that I give it a 4 1/2 out of 5 stars.

Crystal Dawn Crossan

Surrender Dorothy
Serum

The CD, *Serum* by Surrender Dorothy really wasn't that bad. The lead singer's voice really takes some getting used to however... She sounds almost like a heavy version of Alanis Morissette crossed with Dolores O'Riordan (lead singer of the Cranberries).

Their style of music is best described as "angry" with their first song "alone" starting out really loud and aggressive. However, some of their songs aren't quite so heavy. "Dirge" for example starts off quite pleasant.

The lyrics are pretty good for the most part. Just the right thing when you're feeling angry or frustrated. The best song on the album is definitely "dirge" for reasons mentioned above coupled with great lyrics. I really didn't like the song "w.e.w.m." it just didn't fit into the feel of the album... too many strange noises and distortion for my taste... the lyrics aren't that good either.

So, overall, I'd recommend this CD to anyone who likes a heavy (but not too heavy) style of music, and people who appreciate unusual lyrics. This CD gets a hearty 4 or of 5 stars -- great CD. Things I'd recommend to "Surrender Dorothy" stick to songs like "dirge," it really does credit to the lead singer's vocals. Also, stay away from the weirdness shown in "w.e.w.m."

- Michael J. Small

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