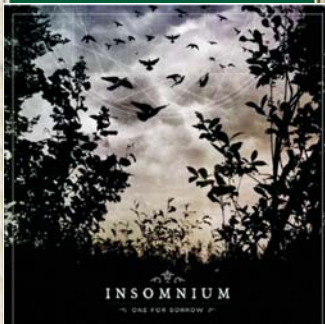


HEADBANGER'S WALL

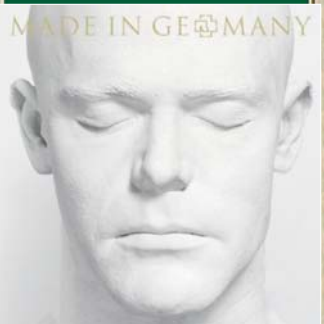
ONE



**INSOMNIUM
ONE FOR SORROW**
(CENTURY MEDIA)

Over the last decade *Insomnium* has slowly but surely made itself a household name among the melodic deathsters. Formed in 1997 in a somnolent town of Joensuu, in eastern Finland, these stern men have ever since redefined the boundaries of the genre. Debut album *In the Halls of Awaiting* introduced a young and fierce band that combined aggression and violent riffing to melancholic atmosphere – a marriage of Scandinavian death metal and traditional Finnish tunes, catchy but progressive, melodic but brutal – these have been the *Insomnium* trademarks ever since. *One For Sorrow* shows a band that knows its strengths but isn't afraid to evolve. Keyboards are overwhelmingly epic and there are some stunning clean vocals by Jules Näveri. Take a bit of folk metal, pinch of doom, some thrashing, a whole lot of timeless melodies and progressive twists and there you have it: The ingredients of the masterpiece.

TWO



**RAMMSTEIN
MADE IN GERMANY**
(VAGRANT)

Some bands entertain... *Rammstein* destroy! The German Industrial Rock stalwarts have released six studio albums, two live albums, and three video albums to date, and show no signs of slowing down. *Made In Germany* is a compilation of the band's greatest hits and comes in three different formats: standard (one disc), Deluxe (2 discs), and the Super Deluxe Metal Box (2 discs and 3 DVDs). As any follower of the *Rammstein* journey knows, it is in the live arena that the band truly connect with their fans. Cue mountains of pyro, flame-throwers, bazookas and enough ordnance to level a small country! This time, the musicians are looking to surpass their already formidable reputation as masters of orchestrated chaos, promising that no one will leave disappointed.

THREE



**AUGUST BURNS RED
LEVELER**
(SOLIDSTATE)

Since the release of *August Burns Red's* 2009 breakout album, *Constellations*, The Lancaster, PA based genre giants have found themselves in some rather unexpected places. From the cover of Alternative Press to Fox's "American Dad," from the sands of Dubai to the Warped Tour, from Japan to Australia to South America. When it came time to record their fourth full-length album, *Leveler*, ABR could have played it safe, could have simply cashed in on their previous success by making *Constellations II*. Instead *August Burns Red* scrapped the old game plan and followed their sound where it led them. The direction, as it turns out, was both forward and backward. On *Leveler*, the band recaptured the hungry, ferocious heaviness of their earlier albums, and at the same time bravely indulged some of the more creative impulses they had previously stifled. The breathtaking result is nothing short of a game-changer.

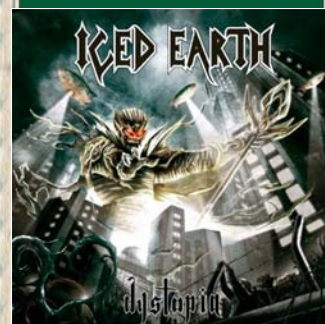
FOUR



**CRADLE OF FILTH
EVERMORE DARKLY**
(NUCLEAR BLAST)

In the summer of 2011, *Cradle Of Filth* embarked on a rapid succession of tours, accompanied by two filmmakers. The resulting documentary, *Evermore Darkly*, combined with performance and interview footage culminates in an hour-long film of the not so glamorous reality of life in a touring band. *Evermore Darkly* features copious footage of the band, both at work and enjoying some down time, as the band trawl their way through the Ukraine, Russia, Switzerland, Austria and Germany over the space of eight shows, with only a brief stop back on the shores of England. The format is a long interview with the band, interspersed and peppered with live footage and all the shenanigans that occurred over the space of the 10 days along with behind the scenes at latest shot for the new video "Lilith Immaculate."

FIVE

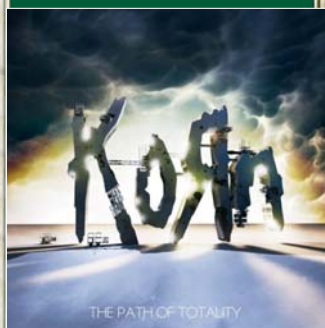


**ICED EARTH
DYSTOPIA**
(CENTURY MEDIA)

The magical nexus of art and life – the knife's edge where raw artistic passion meets focused creative expression – is the space all serious musicians seek...but few find. On *Dystopia*, the new album from American metal icons *Iced Earth*, Jon Schaffer found that space. And made it his own. Add a pinch of Orwell ("If you want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face – forever"), a soupcon of Blade Runner, and a smattering of headlines from around the world and – voila! – you get *Dystopia* – perhaps *Iced Earth's* heaviest and most menacing album to date. A blistering 10-song tour-de-force that explores the nightmarish Orwellian world of the future (or is it the present?), *Dystopia* runs the gamut of poignant ballads, bone-crushing riffs, stratospheric vocals, and chilling lyrics. It is a soul-searing album not for the faint of heart.

DECEMBER 2011 • JANUARY 2012

SIX



**KORN
THE PATH OF TOTALITY**
(ROADRUNNER)

Korn embrace the future on *The Path of Totality*, their tenth full-length studio album. Infusing dubstep anarchy into their signature sound, the legendary quartet stand on the cusp of a musical revolution for both hard rock and electronica. *Korn* are no strangers to revolution though. In fact, they've been purveyors of heavy music's progression since forming in Bakersfield, CA in 1994 and becoming one of the most influential entities that the genre has ever seen. Collaborating with dubstep heavyweights Skrillex, Excision, Downlink, Noisia, Feed Me, 12th Planet, and Flinch, *Korn* have constructed a hypnotic hybrid of dubstep and metal. Bouncing from polyrhythmic guitar pummeling into drastic electro drops, the music is dark, dangerous, and definitive *Korn*. This CD/DVD set includes a 2-Hour Live DVD of *The Encounter* Crop Circle Concert, exclusive interview footage, and 2 exclusive bonus tracks.

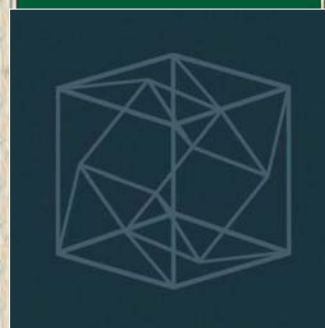
SEVEN



**DISTURBED
THE LOST CHILDREN**
(ROADRUNNER)

Even if you've been down with *The Sickness* since Y2K, you may there may be plenty of *Disturbed* that you've yet to smash your head against. *The Lost Children* aims to correct that. *The Lost Children* is the first ever B-sides collection from the American Hard Rock/Metal crew. The set includes two new songs: A previously unreleased track, "Mine," and "3," which was released exclusively on the band's website in April 2011. Other tracks include "God of the Mind" and "A Welcome Burden," which appeared on the 2010 reissue of the band's 2000 debut album *The Sickness*. "Monster," "Two Worlds," and "Sickened" were included as bonus tracks on the UK tour edition of *Ten Thousand Fists*. "Run" was featured on a limited-edition version of 2008's *Indestructible* and "Parasite" which appeared on the Japanese edition. All the *Disturbed* you can handle is here. Complete your collection and get down.

EIGHT



**TESSERACT
ONE**
(CENTURY MEDIA)

UK-based metallers *Tesseract* are celebrating the dawn of a new decade with something truly special by unleashing their debut album *One*. The record will mark the realization of a bold, experimental creative vision that began in 2003 as a solo writing project in the mind of guitarist Aclé Kahney, and has subsequently spawned one of the most hotly tipped metal bands in the UK. *Tesseract* is all about three things: experimentation, musical emotion and groove. Bonus DVD contains the entire *Concealing Fate* EP recorded live in the studio in one take with no overdubs along with band interviews and live footage shot over in the UK.

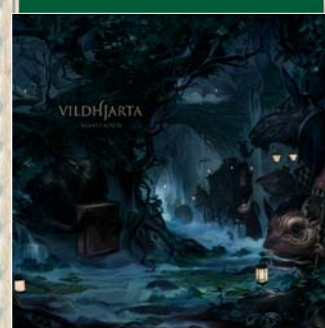
NINE



**VALLENFYRE
A FRAGILE KING**
(CENTURY MEDIA)

The sound of *Valenfyre* goes back to vocalist / guitarist Greg Mackintosh's youth: "I was first introduced to more extreme music by my older brother in 1981. Over the next few years in my early teens I grew to love various early hardcore punk bands like Discharge, English Dogs, Conflict etc." The events that led to the conception and formation of *Valenfyre* are not particularly happy or pretty ones: "In the late summer of 2009, my father John Mackintosh was diagnosed with prostate cancer. After a very sad and painful time he passed away on the 2nd December early in the morning. The album is called *A Fragile King*, which is a reference to my fathers' battle with cancer. The lyrics are predominantly about the same thing but also include gripes with society, religion, politics and relationships as well. It's all pretty grim."

TEN



**VILDHJARTA
MASSTADEN**
(CENTURY MEDIA)

Vildhjarta was formed by Daniel Bergström, Jimmie Åkerström and Johan Nyberg in 2005 in Hudiksvall, Sweden. With the three spread throughout Sweden, Bergström, the main songwriter of the bunch, would email ideas to the other guys to get their feedback and suggestions. More members brought more input and ideas and soon their own take on metal was created. *Måsstaden* represents (at least) two things: One, it's perhaps the best debut records of this or any year – an album of epic proportion from one extreme (brutal, insane riffs) to another (mellow, trippy passages). Two, *Måsstaden* is not just an album, it's a city. The record is a concept record, told of a hidden and isolated town narrated like a classic fable. So take a trip to *Måsstaden*. See what you think, stay as long as you like....