

2010 The Year We Made Contact - The Violet Year



The Birthday Massacre - Probly the best band in 2010

2010 a familiar year which figures in the title of a movie based on the writings of Arthur C. Clarke and also the sequel to 2001 A Space Odyssey, but 2010 was no Space Odyssey but the year we made contact. For Hallowed you could actually say the same for 2010, it was the year when we finally started breaking down some borders and opening up doors and started to get noticed. This Year goes in Violet in homage to the great Pins and Needles...

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Since the start in late 2007 until late december 2010 we had increased our number of unique visitors by more than tenfold and we saw over 40% increase from december to January 2011 so I guess the trend is continuing up-

wards for now. We cannot really be anything but happy with our progress during 2010 when this unique visitor count doubled since the year before, the hope now is that it continues. Not that it matters that much to me personally but it is fun to know that more and more comes to have a look at what we do.

Music of 2010

It was also a year musically in 2010 and I think that at first glance you might think it was a brilliant year with Dark Tranquility, Indica, The Birthday Massacre and Star One scoring full marks, I mean how many other years is there so many fantastic albums coming out? I can't really think of many where we saw that many

Arjen Anthony Lucassen's
STAR ONE
VICTIMS OF THE MODERN AGE



One of the best albums 2010



Dark Tranquillity, one of the full point reviewed 2010

albums of that calibre. But then on the other hand, Eluveitie was the only album I handed a six pointer and all in all there was not much besides the top scorer, just below them was almost nothing and there was not that many five pointers as you would expect either making it actually a quite poor year musically. There were actually quite a lot of rubbish coming out, but not only that it was really quite a lot of uninteresting material seeing the light of day in 2010.

The website

For Hallowed as a website we underwent a real overhaul in page design, a work in progress still and besides the big overall

change to the main page at the first day of the year there have been some smaller changes, mainly in the review windows where we have made the cover slightly bigger, changed the name-title thing a bit, adding the red or green quote where the red indicates a poor album and green a good one. The video was added in 2009 but we changed a little bit around that as well in the year and has during 2011 also changed in that order that the video will remain within the text frame so that the text of all reviews will be equally wide now. To be said of the changes department is that there is still lots of work to be done but response to the overall change has been a positive one

mostly shown by more visitors but also some emails about the layout.

2009 and 2010 we did not have that many articles, we hope to change that in 2011 and have more articles, this is one but also more articles about bands and perhaps some other articles as well, nothing is decided on that. We have however added a classics section where we from time to time will revisit an old review which will be published in its old form and commented at that spot and then we also do another review, a new one of this record in our current format, just to illustrate to all of you who wasn't there reading our reviews during the time we were a printed pu-

blication. It is also said that some old articles will be published there, also some articles that were never published might show up there.

But as I stated, we will try and increase the number of articles, one thing that is for sure is that the number of reviews in 2011 will be more than previous years as we see more and more labels/distributors approaching and asks us to write about there bands, which is fun but also a bit tough with more work at times. But just as many times 2010 you will see almost daily updates during 2011 so there is much to look forward to in 2011 from us, I hope you stay with us.

The Hallowed year

Combined I think that 2010 was a good year, maybe the best for hallowed and combined with the musical year I am quite sure that we had our best year as hallowed yet. Still I think three really amazing albums and a few really great ones to add to that is not that bad really, sure the overall quality might be a bit down but Star One and The Birthday Massacre is more than enough to outweigh that.

Sort of B5 end & a prophecy

It was the year we started to make real progress, the year we made contact. It may be the year that turned it all on edge for us, when we became something of a force

to reckon with. I will not say that we are there or that we will ever get there but we will keep writing about the music we enjoy and love and hopefully some of you will find enjoyment in reading what we have to say.

Looking forwards I can just say that there is more to come, there are developments in the pipeline that will be implemented as soon as there is time to implement and develop them for the site. We will keep the site simple and in html-format as none of us working with it like annoying flash-pages or similar, we want our site to load fast and easy and be easy to browse around and find what you are looking for.

So with 2010 a successful year



Indica found the key to great music

behind us we are now looking forwards to 2011 and as you noticed there was not much about the music of 2010, it was not really that impressive so hopefully the 2011 text will speak more of that and less of hallowed in itself, but that is down to what happens during the musical year of 2011.

Best 2010

Lists of the best and worst...

Best extreme metal

1. Dark Tranquillity - We Are the Vengeance
CENTURY MEDIA
2. Eluveitie - Everything Remains (even if it never was)
NUCLEAR BLAST
3. Dimmu Borgir - Abrahadabra
NUCLEAR BLAST



Best Traditional Metal

1. Indica - A Way Away
NUCLEAR BLAST
2. Enforcer - Diamonds
EARACHE
3. Magnum - The Visitation
SPV



Best Alternative Metal

1. The Birthday Massacre - Pins and Needles
METROPOLIS
2. Star One - Victims of the Modern Age
INSIDEOUT
3. Nechtgeschrei - Ardeo
MASSACRE



Best Live Albums

1. Candlemass - Ashes to Ashes
NUCLEAR BLAST
2. Jeff Scott Soto-Live at Firefest 2008
FRONTIERS
3. Fair Warning - Talking Ain't Enough
SPV

Hall of Shame (no individual order)

- Immolation - Majesty and Decay
NUCLEAR BLAST
- I Shalt Become - The Pendle Which Trials
NO COLOURS
- The Retaliation Process - Downfall
SILVERWOLF