



Metallica comprise (from left) Kirk Hammett, Lars Ulrich, Robert Trujillo and James Hetfield. PHOTO: AEG LIVE

Metallica: Don't lose touch with your inner voice

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SINGAPORE—After more than 35 years selling 110 million albums worldwide and belting out mega hits such as Enter Sandman and Nothing Else Matters, Metallica are still pushing the boundaries of what it means, exactly, to be Metallica.

The American thrash metal group, made up of vocalist-guitarist James Hetfield, drummer Lars Ulrich, lead guitarist Kirk Hammett and bassist Robert Trujillo, famously became the first band in history to perform in all seven continents — including Antarctica — within a year in 2013. They recently released their first studio album in eight years, *Hardwired ... To Self-Destruct*, which earned the third-biggest opening week last year in the US in terms of sales, behind Drake and Beyoncé's albums. Two weeks after the album was released, the title track, *Hardwired*, was also nominated for Best Rock Song at the Grammys.

Speaking to TODAY about what still propels the legendary band to work as hard and as well as they do, Hammett said it is because they, quite simply, love their work.

"(What motivates us is the fact) that we are still together, and can look back at us, illustrate our past together and celebrate it together with one another," the famed guitarist-songwriter said in an e-mail interview. "When you enjoy what we do, appreciate and embrace what comes, either good or bad, success will come naturally."

The band also try to remain as honest as they can be, which is likely the reason why years of accolades and success have not dulled the rage and pas-

sion Metallica are known for.

"Inspiration comes from everywhere, but I think it's really important to be as honest about what we think and feel as possible, and as sincere as possible, and to listen to your own inner voice, because that will guide you," said Hammett. "Don't lose touch of that inner voice, man, because that will guide you through the music, you know, and the whole creative process

that comes with playing music."

As for their upcoming gig here, Metallica, which last played a sold-out concert at the Changi Exhibition Centre in 2013, will keep an open mind about how fans will react to their show.

"Whenever and wherever we go, we try not to set an expectation. It's wise to just go there openly and just kind of, like, see how it is and just, you know, go from there," Hammett said.

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Kirk Hammett
LEAD GUITARIST OF METALLICA

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