

= Worship Music (album) =

Worship Music is the tenth studio album by American thrash metal band Anthrax . The album was released on September 12 , 2011 internationally , and on September 13 in the United States . It was the band 's first album of original material since We 've Come for You All (2003) , the first full @-@ length Anthrax album since 1990 's Persistence of Time to feature vocalist Joey Belladonna , and the final album with guitarist Rob Caggiano prior to his departure in January 2013 .

The album 's creation was a lengthy process , with work beginning as early as November 2008 . The album was delayed due to issues with the departure of vocalist Dan Nelson , and the re @-@ joining of John Bush who ultimately decided not to commit to the album . The band eventually reunited with Belladonna , and finished recording in April 2011 . Worship Music was positively received upon release , with critics describing it as " fresh and eruptive as ever " and qualified it as a return to form for the band . The record debuted at number 12 in the United States , their highest chart position since Sound of White Noise (1993) .

= = Background = =

In the December 2008 edition of his monthly SuicideGirls column , Food Coma , guitarist Scott Ian revealed that he had been in the studio working on the new Anthrax album since November 4 . Ian went on to say that drums , bass , and rhythm guitar had been arranged for 19 tracks , and that the process of recording the vocals had begun . " We should be mixing at the end of January and soon after that giving birth to a really pissed off , loud , fast and heavy child . " In a subsequent May 2009 Food Coma column , Ian announced that the album was being mixed by Dave Fortman , whose previous credits include albums by Evanescence and Slipknot .

The album was initially scheduled to feature Dan Nelson on vocals . However , following the events later that year , he was no longer a member of the band . When asked what would happen to the completed studio album featuring Nelson 's vocals , Ian said : " Until we have a new singer , I can 't tell you what will happen to the record . We 'll probably change a few things on it , including the vocals . " Ian also indicated that the album 's release could be delayed until 2010 . It was assumed that John Bush was going to record new vocals for the album after his reunion with the band . However , this did not happen . In an interview at the time , Bush said he was trying to re @-@ record vocals for some of the songs that had already been recorded .

Bush eventually decided that he did not want to recommit to Anthrax full @-@ time and left the group . As a result , the band reunited with Joey Belladonna . Following shows during the summer and fall of 2010 , the band returned to the studio . Some of the completed songs were left as is , adding Belladonna 's vocals , others were re ? written , and some entirely new songs were composed with Belladonna . Drummer Charlie Benante suggested the album 's title after the eponymous TV show . Although Ian stated that the album name could be changed , this turned out not to be the case . In October 2010 at Nassau Coliseum , Anthrax performed the song " Fight ' Em ' Til You Can 't " for the first time . It was at this point that Ian said fans should expect the new record in late 2011 .

In December , Ian stated that the band had almost completed the new album and only had to re @-@ record two or three tracks . Ian further confirmed that all the material would feature vocals by Belladonna . Noisecreep reported that Worship Music had been shelved until Belladonna completed new vocal tracks . The band finished recording Worship Music in April 2011 , and called it their " most emotional album " . " Fight ' Em ' Til You Can 't " was released as the lead single on June 24 , 2011 . It was released for free download as a way of saying " thank you " to fans ' loyalty in waiting in anticipation for the album . Three days later , Ian announced that the band had started the mastering process for the upcoming album . The cover art was revealed the following month .

= = Lyrics = =

The songs " Earth on Hell " and " Revolution Screams " refer to democracy in the United States and

around the world . According to Ian , at the time of the album 's release , these songs were " very much about people taking the power back " . Although the songs were written long before , he cited the 2011 Egyptian revolution and Occupy Wall Street demonstrations as examples of this phenomenon coming to pass . " The Devil You Know " , despite the line " Let the right one in " and the band 's history of using horror stories as subject matter , was not a reference to the 2004 Swedish vampire novel *Let the Right One In* ; it was about World War II veterans . " Fight ' Em ' Til You Can 't " is about a zombie apocalypse , and " In the End " was written as a tribute to the late Ronnie James Dio , an inspiration for the band , and Dimebag Darrell , a friend and collaborator on three Anthrax albums . " Judas Priest " was named as a tribute to the heavy metal band Judas Priest , and contains a bridge that references several well @-@ known Priest songs . " The Constant " is about the episode of the 2004 television series *Lost* of the same name , where a character travels through time until he finds his " constant " .

" I 'm Alive " was written when Dan Nelson was member of the band . Anthrax premiered the song live in 2008 , though it was titled " Vampires " at that time . It is notable for its tribal @-@ sounding introduction with clean guitars backed up by a marching drum beat , before taking off into a heavy riff and gradually breaking into a melodic chorus . In an album preview by Blabbermouth.net , " I 'm Alive " was described as " beautiful and grand with a build that demands audience participation " . The song was nominated for a Grammy Award in the category Best Hard Rock / Metal Performance , the band 's fourth Grammy nomination .

= = Release = =

Worship Music was internationally released on September 12 , 2011 , and on September 13 in the United States . It sold 28 @,@ 000 copies in the United States in its first week of release and debuted at number 12 on the *Billboard* 200 , the third highest position of their career (the second being its successor , *For All Kings* , which charted at number 9) and the highest since *Sound of White Noise* (1993) , which peaked at number 7 . The band 's previous studio album , *We 've Come for You All* (2003) , opened with just under 10 @,@ 000 units to debut at number 122 . The album charted at number 13 in Germany and managed to break into the top 10 in Finland , reaching number 6 . By September 2012 , *Worship Music* sold about 100 @,@ 000 copies in the United States .

When asked about a possible follow @-@ up to *Worship Music* , bassist Frank Bello said that the band intended to re @-@ release *Worship Music* with several bonus tracks . The bonus tracks were set to include covers of Rush and Boston songs . Bello stated that the plan was to release the reissue in the fall of 2012 . A few days later , band members announced that five covers were included : " Anthem " by Rush , " Smokin ' " by Boston , " Neon Knights " by Black Sabbath , " T.N.T. " by AC / DC , and " Keep on Runnin ' " by Journey . Although Scott Ian expected the reissue to be released by the end of the year , it was eventually postponed for 2013 . The special edition of *Worship Music* was released on March 22 , 2013 by Nuclear Blast . It consists of the original album and a bonus EP of cover songs , *Anthems* , which was also released separately on the same day in Europe , and three days earlier in North America .

= = Reception = =

Critical reception of the album was generally positive . AllMusic 's Greg Prato noted that in spite of the issues surrounding the departure of Dan Nelson , the album fits together " seamlessly " and called it the group 's finest studio recording since *Persistence of Time* (1990) . Jason Heller of *The A.V. Club* praised the album for being rid of the " nü @-@ metal stench " of the previous record and the " all @-@ around patchiness " from the other John Bush @-@ era albums . Heller noted that it brought the band back into the " youthful dynamic " . Classic Rock journalist Malcolm Dome observed that musically , *Worship Music* is a mixture of " the grinding power " of *We 've Come for You All* and the more " clear @-@ cut melodic approach " of *Among The Living* (1987) , resulting in an album that is " violently metallic yet sophisticated " .

Michael Christopher of The Boston Phoenix commented that Anthrax has learned from its past mistakes in making the album . He observed that the humor that characterized the previous albums was still present , and called this album a " fresh fistful of metal " . Mikael Wood of the Los Angeles Times compared Worship Music to Metallica 's Lulu , saying that Anthrax , unlike Metallica , opted to " reclaim ground " dominated by younger bands . Mark Fisher , writing in Metal Forces , highlighted the guitar performance , saying it reminded him of the sound Anthrax is mostly associated with . Although Fisher preferred the albums with John Bush on vocals , he remarked that Worship Music is a fine recording with a career @-@ defining performance by Joey Belladonna . Chad Bowar from About.com also praised Belladonna 's performance , noting that the vocal delivery was filled with angst and emotion . He opined that Anthrax sounded rejuvenated and qualified the album as a return to form .

Chad Grischow of IGN commented that the album sounded " as fresh and eruptive as ever " with the exception of " Crawl " , the " rare misstep on the otherwise fantastic album " . Loudwire 's Matthew Wilkening said that Belladonna 's 20 @-@ year absence from the band hasn 't affected the band 's chemistry at all . According to him , the album represented the maturity and musical growth of the band . PopMatters 's Chris Colgan described the music as a combination of the " later material with shades of their thrash beginnings " . He believes this wasn 't " the glorious comeback " for Anthrax , but called it a solid album with signs of progress for the group . Metal Rules chose Worship Music the best metal album of 2011 .

= = Touring = =

Anthrax spent the following two years touring in support of Worship Music . The band started the tour with the " big four " shows alongside Metallica , Slayer , and Megadeth , which took place in the summer of 2011 . Due to the birth of his child , Ian missed the European leg of the tour ; Sepultura guitarist Andreas Kisser acted as a fill @-@ in . Ian was able to make an appearance in Milan , Italy , joining the band and Kisser for half of the setlist . Anthrax continued touring in late 2011 . In October and November , Anthrax embarked on a 23 date US tour co @-@ headlining with Testament and openers Death Angel . These three bands resumed performing together in early 2012 . The trio announced further dates in the US and Canada in the fall of 2012 , with Testament promoting their then @-@ new album , Dark Roots of Earth . Anthrax teamed up with Motörhead for a ten show UK tour in November . In January 2013 , it was announced that Caggiano had left the band . He was replaced by Shadows Fall guitarist Jonathan Donais .

Anthrax was announced as the headliner for the third annual Metal Alliance US tour , which endured through March and April 2013 . Supporting acts included Exodus , Municipal Waste , and Holy Grail , with the headliner Anthrax performing Among the Living in its entirety . Charlie Benante has been taking time off from gigs outside the US because of personal reasons . His place was filled in by drummer Jon Dette during these shows . The group filmed their performance at Santiago , Chile , with Benante on drums , for the DVD album Chile On Hell . The tour ended with a show at San Bernardino , California , at the two @-@ year anniversary of the album 's release . After finishing the tour , the band took a short break before reconvening to start work on a new album .

= = Track listing = =

All songs written by Anthrax (except " New Noise " , written and originally performed by Refused) . Tracks 2 , 3 , 4 , 5 , 8 , 11 , 12 and 13 co @-@ written by Dan Nelson .

= = Personnel = =

Credits are adapted from AllMusic .

= = = Anthrax = = =

Joey Belladonna ? lead vocals
Rob Caggiano ? lead guitar , backing vocals
Scott Ian ? rhythm guitar , backing vocals
Frank Bello ? bass , backing vocals
Charlie Benante ? drums

= = = Additional musicians = = =

Dan Nelson - co author on tracks 2 @, @ 3 @, @ 4 @, @ 5 @, @ 8 @, @ 11 @, @ 12 and 13 .
Alison Chesley ? cello

= = = Technical personnel = = =

Rob Caggiano ? producer
Jay Ruston ? mixing and additional production
Asim Ali ? engineer
Andy Lagis ? assistant engineer
Alex Ross ? artwork
Charlie Benante ? cover concept
Douglas Heusser ? artwork , design
Ross Halfin ? photography

= = Charts = =

= = Release history = =