

= Thirteen (Megadeth album) =

Thirteen (stylized as TH1RT3EN) is the thirteenth studio album by American thrash metal band Megadeth . It was released worldwide on November 1 , 2011 , by Roadrunner Records , although the album was released on October 26 , 2011 for Japan . Thirteen is the first Megadeth studio album since The World Needs a Hero (2001) to feature bassist and founding member David Ellefson , who returned to the band in 2010 . Thirteen debuted at number 11 on the Billboard 200 chart , selling 42 @, @ 000 copies in its first week . The album broke into the top 20 in several other markets as well . It has sold about 120 @, @ 000 copies in the United States as of December 2012 . The album has received largely positive reviews from critics .

The album followed the successful Endgame , released two years previously , and was recorded in late spring 2011 . In addition to new material was written for the album , the band decided to rework and release several older songs , some of which had previously seen release as demos or bonus tracks . Additionally , several of the songs on the album were intended to appear on video game soundtracks , notably " Sudden Death " , which appeared as a playable song in the 2010 video game Guitar Hero : Warriors of Rock .

The lead single from Thirteen was the Al Capone @-@ inspired " Public Enemy No. 1 " . This was followed by " Whose Life (Is It Anyways ?) " about a month later . " Sudden Death " was released as a single prior to the announcement of Thirteen to promote Guitar Hero : Warriors of Rock , but was later included on the album . All three songs received Grammy Award nominations , in the " Best Metal Performance " or " Best Hard Rock / Metal Performance " categories .

= = Writing , recording and album artwork = =

In July 2010 , while being asked about the success of Megadeth 's release Endgame (2009) , drummer Shawn Drover revealed that the band had begun discussing a follow @-@ up album and said that there were a " couple of ideas " the band was starting to work on . In a later interview , frontman and guitarist Dave Mustaine stated that the album would contain a mix of songs he had written earlier in his career and new compositions written for the album .

Mustaine confirmed that Megadeth would record at the band 's own Vic 's Garage studio in California . Johnny K was chosen to produce the record because Andy Sneap , the producer of Megadeth 's previous two albums , was unavailable due to schedule conflicts . Mustaine subsequently revealed that the album would be titled Thirteen and would feature previously released tracks such as " Sudden Death " and " Never Dead " .

In an interview before a show in Auckland , New Zealand , Mustaine noted that the then @-@ upcoming record was the last one on the band 's contract with Roadrunner Records and mentioned that Roadrunner was trying to give the band a " huge new deal " . However , Mustaine expressed frustration with the label , saying " The treatment 's been terrible over the years , and I just don 't want it . " He stated that he would prefer to retire than " continue to play like that " . Nevertheless , Mustaine exclaimed the band 's new record would be " great " and the songs were " really good " .

In a December 2010 interview , bassist David Ellefson (who was welcomed back into the band earlier that year) commented " There 's some ideas that we 're now starting to individually compose " , but clarified the band would not be hitting the studio until 2011 . Ellefson also speculated that the album would be influenced by the band 's (then) recent live performances of the entire Rust in Peace album (1990) .

Mustaine initially suggested that the album was turning out to be " more like Endgame " . however he later declared the album was instead " Different , a hundred percent different , unlike anything we 've ever done before because the guitar sounds are different , it sounds really super @-@ modern . " He went on to compare the sound to " really old classic Sabbath and with a little bit of a modern edge of Queens of the Stone Age kind of thing . "

Ellefson stated the album was ready to be mixed as of July 2011 . When asked if it could be compared to any previous Megadeth album , he said the album " kind of fits in around the Countdown to Extinction album " but noted it would depend on how the album was to be mixed .

Ellefson also announced the band has been considering album titles , but no release date was yet planned .

Chris Broderick compared some parts of the album specifically to Peace Sells ... but Who 's Buying ? (1986) , Rust in Peace , or Countdown to Extinction (1992) , but also stated " I 've been likening it to a very diverse CD . It 's not one of those ones that you 'll put it on and every song sounds like the last one . It 's got everything from anthems to more radio friendly stuff to hard @-@ hitting thrash and some cool , dark @-@ sounding stuff . " In a later interview , Broderick again touted the sonic diversity of the album , noting that it is " like a cut in time from each CD of the past Megadeth discography " .

It was announced that a new song , " Never Dead " , would be included in a promotional trailer for Konami 's upcoming video game NeverDead , marking the third time in five years that the band contributed a new song towards promoting a video game (" Gears of War " in 2006 to promote Gears of War and " Sudden Death " in 2010 for inclusion in Guitar Hero : Warriors of Rock being the other two) . " Sudden Death " though originally recorded for the Guitar Hero franchise , was also later confirmed to be included on Thirteen .

The album artwork was designed by John Lorenzi , who contributed to the covers on Megadeth 's two previous albums , Endgame and United Abominations (2007) . The title was revealed as 13 , with Mustaine commenting " I started playing guitar at 13 and this is our 13th record and I was born on the 13th . As soon as I said I was going to call it ' 13 ' , I started noticing 13 everywhere . They never used to have 13th floors in hotels but now they have them again . " One day later , the band revealed that the title would be rendered as " Th1rt3en " instead of 13 . Drover stated in a subsequent interview that " Thirteen " had originally been the working title for the album . The cover artwork and tracklist for the album were revealed on September 7 , 2011 .

According to Dave Mustaine , the band have encountered numerous mishaps and odd occurrences . In an interview with Terrorizer magazine , Mustaine , taking note of the connection to the unlucky number 13 , explained " This is our 13th studio record , and we 've already had a bunch of weird things happen . Car problems , stuff disappearing , a guy who worked for me that was the most white @-@ laced guy you could imagine falling out on drugs and disappearing ... but this one 's got me excited ! " In addition , Mustaine announced on Twitter that producer Johnny K was " suddenly struck ill " , and the band had ceased recording for the time being . However , the band resumed recording a few days later , with K having apparently recovered . In an interview , Drover had said nothing weird occurred until after he finished recording drum tracks for the album .

However , Mustaine later contradicted his previous statements " It 's been very good luck . We did this record in ? in record time " . Furthermore , instead of the superstitions surrounding the number 13 , Mustaine said he was actually more concerned with the album 's release date of November 1 being a bad omen ; referring to the release of Youthanasia (which was released on the same date in 1994) , when the band was " banned " from MTV , for playing the then @-@ new track " À Tout le Monde " on a televised promotional show , because MTV believed the song to be about suicide .

= = Release and promotion = =

Mustaine revealed the album 's North American release date as November 1 , 2011 . Mustaine previously said the label was " looking at November 1st . I don 't know if it 's supposed to be the 1st or the 31st for the release date , cuz [sic] they 're trying to get us to do a live performance some place , for this release . " This live performance Mustaine mentioned would ultimately turn out to be an appearance on the October 31 , 2011 edition of Jimmy Kimmel Live ! . The band , performing in Halloween costumes , played " Public Enemy No. 1 " and " Symphony of Destruction " , the former of which was televised . The album was released in Japan on October 26 , 2011 .

To help draw publicity for the then @-@ upcoming release , Mustaine had scheduled an appearance on the October 14 ? 16 edition of the Full Metal Jackie radio show and premiered a new track from Thirteen , " Whose Life (Is This Anyways ?) " , on the broadcast . For a 24 @-@ hour period from October 17 to October 18 , 2011 , " Whose Life (Is It Anyway ?) " was released as a free download through the band 's Facebook page . Samples of all the album 's songs were

available for streaming on Amazon.com from October 17 . Mustaine also made an appearance on the November 7 edition of Rockline .

= = Songs = =

Mustaine had said that thirteen songs had been written in the sessions for the album , though only twelve were originally contracted for the album (one of which being a bonus track intended only for the Japanese market) . However , it was later revealed that the album was to feature a total of 13 tracks . Several of the songs on the album were previously recorded by the band in one form or another , although most of the songs are completely new material .

= = = Reworked older material = = =

" Sudden Death " , " New World Order " , " Black Swan " and " Millennium of the Blind " were released previously in different or incomplete versions , and were included as bonus tracks on previous albums or used for other projects . " Sudden Death " was originally written for the 2010 music video game Guitar Hero : Warriors of Rock . The song was released as a digital single via iTunes in September 2010 .

" New World Order " was originally written during the Clash of the Titans Tour in 1991 , however , early versions of the song were not released until years later . The original finished version was released on the Duke Nukem soundtrack in 1999 , and a demo had been included as a bonus track on the 2004 remix / remaster of Youthanasia . Ellefson stated the song was re @-@ recorded at the insistence of Shawn Drover , and (compared to previous versions of the song) Mustaine had " updated some parts and made them more violent . " Drover , for his part , stated re @-@ recording " New World Order " was initially Mustaine 's idea , though he strongly supported re @-@ recording the song .

" Black Swan " was originally intended as a special edition bonus track for United Abominations . According to Ellefson , finishing and including " Black Swan " on Thirteen was Johnny K 's idea . Ellefson also noted that , having been written several years beforehand , it has nothing to do with the 2010 film of the same name ; the lyrics were inspired by the C.S. Lewis novel The Great Divorce . In part of the effort to promote the album , the song was released for streaming via Hot Topic 's official YouTube page on October 24 , 2011 .

According to Ellefson , " Millennium of the Blind " was originally written in 1991 and a demo was recorded , and a version of the song would later be included as a bonus track on the 2004 remix / remaster of Youthanasia . In the liner notes for the 2004 re @-@ release of Youthanasia , Mustaine claimed that " Millennium of the Blind " reminded him too much of another song he was working on at the time , " Absolution " (which would later form part of " Trust " from Cryptic Writings) . Mustaine states in the Youthanasia re @-@ release liner notes that he came up with the lyrics after watching Highlander . Ellefson explained Johnny K and Mustaine were able to finish the song for Thirteen .

= = = New compositions = = =

On July 4 , 2011 Megadeth debuted a new song entitled " Public Enemy No. 1 " at a show in Hamburg , Germany . According to Mustaine , " Public Enemy No. 1 " was written about 1920s gangster Al Capone . Ellefson revealed in an interview that " Public Enemy No. 1 " was to be released as a single A Western @-@ themed music video , which featured the band and live animals , was made to support the single . The video was released on November 4 , 2011 .

" Whose Life (Is It Anyways ?) " saw its radio debut during an appearance by Dave Mustaine on the October 14 ? 16 , 2011 edition of the Full Metal Jackie radio show . On October 17 , the song was released as a limited @-@ time free download via Megadeth 's Facebook page . In March 2012 , a lyric video for the song was released .

" Never Dead " , was written for inclusion on NeverDead , a third @-@ person action / fantasy game . To help promote the album , Roadrunner Records posted the song on their YouTube

channel for streaming on September 21 , 2011 .

Being interviewed about the album in September 2011 , Ellefson commented on several of the album 's other songs . He also described the title track as " theatrical " and compared it to " In My Darkest Hour " from So Far , So Good ... So What ! (1988) . Ellefson said " 13 " is a song that " summed up the arc of Megadeth as a band " . While referring to another song , " Deadly Nightshade " , Ellefson stated the song 's main riff " was written during the sessions for Youthanasia , or maybe Cryptic Writings [from 1997] . It ? s been around for a while . "

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical response = = =

Reaction from critics towards Thirteen has been mostly positive , with the average rating for the album being around a 7 / 10 . Reviewing the album for Allmusic , James Christopher Monger stated : " Darker , heavier , and more immediate than 2009 's Endgame " , and noted that although Mustaine 's vocals are higher in the mix on this album , " his fleet fingers are still possessed with the power to conjure the dead . " Sputnikmusic 's Mike Stagno wrote that except for the lyrical content , Thirteen doesn 't have major flaws .

According to Kevin Stewart @-@ Panko of Rock Sound , the album 's musical style " gravitates between classy thrashers and hokey anthemic rock " . He praised the " scorching guitar work and Mustaine ? s snarling voice " . Carla Gillis from Now described the record as " thrashy , angry and melody @-@ packed , like Megadeth ? s best Peace Sells @-@ era songs " . She said that the album was not " perfect " , but noted that Mustaine 's vocals and guitar playing " never get old " . Dom Lawson , writing in The Guardian , stated that Megadeth 's " music has lost none of its intensity , passion or rage " over the years . He finished his review by saying that Thirteen is " an all @-@ killer , no @-@ filler feast of state @-@ of @-@ the @-@ art metal " . Similarly , Chris Colgan of PopMatters named Thirteen " the latest in a series of well @-@ composed and well @-@ executed albums " by Megadeth . Colgan went on to say that " Mustaine and his cohorts are still making great music and keeping classic thrash relevant in the metal community " . Heather McDaid from This Is Fake DIY described the record as " good old fashioned , classic heavy metal in its rough and ready glory " .

However , not all critical reaction to the album was positive . Neil Arnold from Metal Forces was disappointed by the album 's musical direction , because he felt that Mustaine " has reverted back to a more simple , less furious sound " . In a brief review for Spin , Jon Young commented on several of the album 's tracks , saying " Public Enemy No. 1 " and " Guns , Drugs & Money " were " deceptively melodic hard rock not far from Alice Cooper 's early classics " but also said they lack the same sense of humor . However , Young stated that " We the People " should be on " the apocalypse 's official soundtrack " . BBC Music 's Ian Winwood said the album " is something of an unremarkable affair . Not a bad album , but not one for the ages . " However , Winwood also called " Sudden Death " " quite brilliant " .

= = = Commercial performance = = =

Thirteen debuted at number 11 on the Billboard 200 , selling 42 @,@ 000 copies in the United States in its first week . This was a slight fall from the first @-@ week sales (about 45 @,@ 000 copies) and chart position (number 9) of its predecessor , Endgame . Another 10 @,@ 780 copies were sold in the second week , and the album 's position on the Billboard 200 fell to number 53 . The album charted similarly in Australia , New Zealand (number 13) and on the Japanese chart (number 11) . Elsewhere , the album failed to enter into the top 20 . As of December 2012 , Thirteen had sold 120 @,@ 000 copies in the United States .

= = = Grammy nominations = = =

Three of the album 's songs received Grammy nominations . " Sudden Death " was nominated for " Best Metal Performance " at the 2011 Grammys , but lost to Iron Maiden 's " El Dorado " . " Public Enemy No. 1 " received a nomination in the " Best Hard Rock / Metal Performance " category the next year , but lost to the Foo Fighters ' " Wasting Light | White Limo " . " Whose Life (Is This Anyways ?) " received a nomination in the same category at the 2013 Grammys , but lost to Halestorm 's " Love Bites (So Do I) " .

= = Track listing = =

= = Personnel = =

Production and performance credits are adapted from the album liner notes .

= = Chart performance = =