

## = Diabolus in Musica =

Diabolus in Musica is the eighth studio album by American thrash metal band Slayer . Released on June 9 , 1998 , it is the second studio album to feature drummer Paul Bostaph . Although receiving mixed critical reviews , the album sold 46 @, @ 000 copies in its first week to peak at number 31 on the Billboard 200 .

Guitarist Jeff Hanneman wrote most of the album 's content which has been described as Slayer 's most experimental album . It is the band 's first studio album to be played mostly in C ? tuning . The album 's title is a Latin term for " The Devil in Music " , a musical interval known for its dissonance . Lyrical themes explored on the album include religion , cultural deviance , death , insanity , war , and homicide .

## = = Writing and recording = =

Slayer guitarist Jeff Hanneman described the writing process as , " When we were writing this album I was looking for something to beat ; I wanted something to beat , but nothing impresses me right now . Nothing sounded really aggressive or heavy enough to inspire me to beat it , so I just had to come up with my own shit . " The album was produced by Rick Rubin and was recorded at Oceanway Studios .

Adrien Begrand of PopMatters felt Slayer introduced characteristics to its music including tuned down guitars , murky chord structures , and churning beats . He believed these characteristics were adopted in response to the then @-@ burgeoning nu metal scene . Drummer Paul Bostaph claims the album is his favorite as he thought the album was " as experimental as Slayer got " . This included incorporating groove metal elements and strange vocal effects as said by an interview for High Times . Bostaph returned to Slayer after his short @-@ lived side project The Truth About Seafood , and the band entered the recording studio four months later .

## = = Album title and lyrical themes = =

Diabolus in Musica is a Latin term for " The Devil in Music " or tritone . Medieval musical rules did not allow this particular dissonance . According to one mythology , the interval was considered sexual and would bring out the devil ; Slayer vocalist and bassist Tom Araya jokingly said that people were executed for writing and using the interval .

Araya held concern about the lyrics that King penned to " In the Name of God " , voicing his opinion to guitarist Hanneman . King 's viewpoint was ; " It 's like , ' C 'mon , man , you 're in Slayer . You 're the antichrist ? you said it yourself on the first album ! ' You can 't draw the line like that . Whether he agrees with it or not , he didn 't write it ? I wrote it . So you have to say , ' Well , it 's just a part of being in this band . ' Now Jeff and I , we don 't give a fuck . If Jeff wrote something I had a problem with , I would never even raise a fucking finger . I 'd be like , ' Fuck yeah , let 's do it ! Gonna piss someone off ? Alright ! ' "

## = = Touring and promotion = =

Following the release of the album the band commenced the Diabolus in Musica tour . From 1998 to 1999 Slayer toured with Sepultura , System of a Down , Fear Factory , Kilgore , Clutch , Meshuggah and Sick of It All . Slayer released a promotional 3 track album called Diabolus in Musica Tour Sampler . The album features 3 tracks , one from Diabolus in Musica ( " Stain of Mind " ) , " Ship of Gold " off tourmate Clutch 's The Elephant Riders and " Suite @-@ Pee " ( Clean Version ) from the debut album by System of a Down . It was released on CD and Cassette .

## = = Reception = =

Diabolus in Musica was released on June 9 , 1998 by American Recordings . In its first week of

release , the album sold 46 @, @ 000 copies in the United States and debuted at number 31 on the Billboard 200 Chart . As of August 16 , 2006 the album has sold 290 @, @ 000 copies in the United States . Reviewing 2003 Slayer box set Soundtrack to the Apocalypse , Adrien Begrand of PopMatters dubbed the album " a unique record [ ... ] It 's as if they 're stepping in to show the young bands how to do it right , as songs like ' Bitter Peace ' , ' Death 's Head ' , and the terrific ' Stain of Mind ' blow away anything that young pretenders have put out . "

However , not all reviewers were so positive . Reviewing Slayer 's 2001 album God Hates Us All , Blabbermouth.net reviewer Borivoj Krgin described Diabolus in Musica as " a feeble attempt at incorporating updated elements into the group 's sound , the presence of which elevated the band 's efforts somewhat and offered hope that Slayer could refrain from endlessly rehashing their previous material for their future output . " In a 1998 review , The New York Times ' Ben Ratliff complained : " Eight of the 11 songs on Diabolus in Musica , a few of which were played at the show , are in the same gray key , and the band 's rhythmic ideas have a wearying sameness too . " Songs from the album are rarely played live following the return of drummer Dave Lombardo in 2002 , with " Stain of Mind " being the only constant .

= = Band members ' views = =

In the " Nu Metal " episode of the 2011 VH1 documentary series Metal Evolution , Kerry King said the following in retrospect about the album :

= = Track listing = =

= = = Japanese edition = = =

Australian Edition does not contain track # 8

= = Personnel = =