

= Super Collider (album) =

Super Collider is the fourteenth studio album by American heavy metal band Megadeth . It was released on June 4 , 2013 , and is Megadeth 's first album to be released on Tradecraft , a Universal label created for frontman Dave Mustaine . In the U.S. , a special edition of the album was made available exclusively through Best Buy retailers . The album features a guest appearance from Disturbed and Device vocalist David Draiman . On April 23 , 2013 , the title track was released on iTunes as the album 's lead single .

It marked the first time the band had released more than one album with the same lineup since 1997 's Cryptic Writings , however it is the band 's final album to feature drummer Shawn Drover and guitarist Chris Broderick , due to their departures from Megadeth in November 2014 . The album debuted at number six on the Billboard 200 and has sold over 86 @, @ 000 copies in the United States as of December 2015 . The album received mixed reviews from critics and , as of August 2014 , has a Metacritic rating of 41 / 100 .

= = Background , writing and recording = =

On July 17 , 2012 , a tweet from the Twitter account for Megadeth 's mascot Vic Rattlehead implied that frontman Dave Mustaine had begun writing lyrics for a follow @-@ up album to 2011 's Thirteen . In an interview with NME , Mustaine confirmed that the band had been working on new material , commenting : " Some of it 's a little darker , some of it 's a little faster . "

Later Mustaine announced that the band was preparing to start work on the album , and suggested early 2013 as a tentative release , on a new label , as the band had split from their previous label , Roadrunner Records . The band 's previous contract with that label was only for three albums , expiring after the release of Thirteen .

On October 27 , Mustaine revealed that the band was planning to enter the studio to begin tracking the album in the first week of November 2012 , before leaving the studio for the American leg of the Countdown to Extinction 20th anniversary tour . However , drummer Shawn Drover later suggested that recording for the album wouldn 't begin until early 2013 , and also suggested that the album would possibly be released in the summer of that year , rather than Mustaine 's initial projection of a late @-@ spring release . Drover said the band was in the process of composing material and determining what riffs to use on the record . On December 24 , 2012 , Mustaine announced that three new songs were " tracked and almost done " . Mustaine later announced via the Vic Rattlehead Twitter page that he had chosen a title and cover art for the new album , though neither was revealed at that time . As with Thirteen , work on the album was done at " Vic 's Garage " , the band 's own studio in San Marcos , California .

From January 2013 onwards , several short video clips were uploaded to the band 's official YouTube channel , showing the band members working on new material in the studio . Later that month , Mustaine announced that the band had finished recording 11 of 13 songs that the band planned to give to the label . Additionally , he confirmed that the band had decided on a new label and was signed . The label was later revealed to be to Tradecraft , a Universal label created for Mustaine . Several days later , on February 1 , Mustaine announced that mixing had begun .

On February 12 , 2013 , the album 's title was revealed as Super Collider . About two weeks later , Mustaine announced several song titles in an interview , discussing some of those songs in the process . Mustaine also revealed that fourteen songs were being worked on in total . Recording for the album was completed in mid @-@ March .

On April 10 , 2013 , a snippet of a new song titled " Don 't Turn Your Back " was posted to the band 's website for streaming , and the cover artwork for the album was revealed . Later that month , it was announced that David Draiman (of Disturbed and Device) would be featured as a guest vocalist on " Dance in the Rain " . The title track was released as the album 's lead single , and " Kingmaker " was released for streaming in May .

Super Collider was released in several versions domestically . There are two versions of the CD : a standard edition and a Best Buy @-@ exclusive edition which features three bonus tracks along

with 3D cover art . Additionally , standard and limited vinyl editions were made available , as well .

== Album cover ==

The cover artwork is modified from an existing photograph of the Inner Barrel of the Compact Muon Solenoid 's Silicon Tracker , a particle physics experiment built on the Large Hadron Collider at CERN . A very faint reflection of Vic Rattlehead can be seen in the object 's center . A 3D cover is featured on the special edition .

== Songs ==

On April 23 , 2013 , " Super Collider " was released as the album 's lead single through iTunes . Several days earlier , the track debuted on an edition of the Full Metal Jackie radio show . A video was also produced for the song . The track deviates from a more traditional metal style in favor of a more radio @-@ oriented rock sound , which Mustaine claims was done to show the record label that the band could write and play more commercially accessible material . Mustaine also stated that while the track drew some inspiration from particle colliders and the search for the " God particle " , the lyrical meaning was less scientific .

On May 18 , 2013 " Kingmaker " was announced and released for streaming via YouTube . Mustaine has revealed that " Kingmaker " was written about painkiller abuse and dependency . He also said that he had altered the lyrics many times to " fit the intention " of the song . Additionally , " Built for War " was featured on an episode of NCIS : Los Angeles on October 8 , 2013 .

Mustaine has elaborated on the subject matter of several of the album 's other songs as well . He has noted that " Forget to Remember " was intentionally written in an ambiguous way so that it could be interpreted as being about either a person trying to forget about a relationship or someone who suffers from Alzheimer 's disease and has memory problems . He also compared the concept behind the song to the film The Notebook . " The Blackest Crow " has a Southern influence and features a slide guitar , while the lyrics are about loss and subsequent depression . Mustaine initially hoped to have a guest feature on the song , and reached out to country musicians Willie Nelson and Miranda Lambert ; however , neither appeared on the song . " Don 't Turn Your Back ... " was inspired by a friend of Mustaine , who described him as " the kind of guy that will steal your dope and then help you look for it . "

" Cold Sweat " is a Thin Lizzy cover , originally appearing on Thunder and Lightning (1983) . Excluding bonus tracks , it is the first cover song to appear on a Megadeth album since " Anarchy in the UK " , a Sex Pistols cover , was included on So Far , So Good ... So What ! in 1988 . Mustaine said he had been wanting to cover the song since the early 1990s .

== Reception ==

== Critical response ==

The album received mixed to negative reviews from music critics . Much of the criticism of the album centers around Mustaine 's lyrics and / or vocals and the return to more commercial @-@ sounding material , from the heavier approach that the band had taken on the last several releases . Some reviewers compared Super Collider to Risk , the band 's much @-@ critiqued 1999 studio effort which saw Mustaine attempting to take more commercial risks with the band 's music . Many critics named " Kingmaker " as a highlight , even those who took a generally dismissive view of the rest of the album .

Positive comments did come from Allmusic reviewer James Christopher Monger and Brave Words & Bloody Knuckles reviewer Mark Gromen . Monger commented that the album had a few good songs (" Kingmaker " , " Built for War " and " The Blackest Crow ") , but commented that the remainder of the album " is so mired in midtempo drudgery and familiar hard rock (not thrash)

tropes that it never really connects ", giving the album a 2 @.@ 5 / 5 star rating . Gromen showed more sympathy towards the album , and commented that although it is more of a rock record than recent albums such as United Abominations or Endgame , he felt that one song , " Built for War " , had a " Rust in Peace feel . " Gromen did criticize " Burn ! " for having mundane lyrics .

Another generally positive review came from Blabbermouth.net reviewer Ray Van Horn , Jr . , who gave the album a 7 @.@ 5 / 10 score despite noting that he felt the album had numerous flaws . Specific praise was directed at many of Ellefson 's bass parts , as well as much of the guitar solo work on the album . Van Horn declared that the album is no Risk despite the insistence of other critics and fans , but expressed uncertainty as to which sonic direction the band might take in the future . Chad Bowar of Loudwire had a mixed overall opinion on the album and mainly criticized the album for being more akin to Risk and The World Needs a Hero than other recent albums . Bowar gave reserved praise for the tracks " Kingmaker " and the band 's cover of " Cold Sweat " .

Other reviewers generally took a more dismissive view of the album , and many of them gave the album a rating of around 5 / 10 or lower . Greg Pratt of Exclaim ! described much of the material on the album as being an attempt on Mustaine 's part to both maintain credibility with his fanbase and score a radio hit at the same time , a result that Pratt concluded was impossible . Pratt took a negative view of several songs on the album , describing " Off the Edge " as " unlovable " , " The Blackest Crow " as " an unfocused mess " , and the title track as having a radio @-@ oriented sound , much to his dislike . However , he did describe " Kingmaker " as " relentless " , and commented that it sounded similar to material from Countdown to Extinction (1992) .

Dean Brown of PopMatters wrote a highly critical review of the album . He characterized the title track as a " ghastly attempt " at arena rock that " even Bon Jovi would have thought twice about releasing as a B @-@ side . " Brown reacted positively to " Kingmaker , " though noted that the song seems to " pillage " Black Sabbath 's " Children of the Grave . " Many of the remaining songs on the album were criticized by Brown for being " cliché , " " pathetic " and / or " awkward , " among other things .

== Commercial performance ==

In spite of the lackluster reception by critics , Super Collider debuted at number six on the Billboard 200 , selling 29 @,@ 000 copies in the U.S. in its first week . Although it sold fewer copies than its predecessor Thirteen (42 @,@ 000) , it charted higher after the first week , as Thirteen debuted at number eleven . This makes the album Megadeth 's highest @-@ charting album in the U.S. since Youthanasia , which peaked at number four in 1994 . The album dropped to number 39 on the Billboard 200 in its second week . As of December 2015 , the album has sold 86 @,@ 000 copies in the United States . The album had further top ten success in Canada and Finland , where the album hit number four , and Norway , where it hit number seven . Additionally , the album charted at number fifteen in Sweden , although elsewhere , the album did not manage to break into the top twenty .

== Track listing ==

All music and lyrics composed by Dave Mustaine , except where noted .

== Personnel ==

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

== Charts ==