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Since its beginnings more than fifty years ago, metal music has grown in popularity worldwide, not only as a musical culture but increasingly as a recognised field of study. This Cambridge Companion reflects the maturing field of 'metal music studies' by introducing the music and its cultures, as well as recent research perspectives from disciplines ranging from musicology and music technology to religious studies, Classics, and Scandinavian and African studies. Topics covered include technology and practice, identity and culture, modern metal genres, and global metal, with reference to performers including Black Sabbath, Metallica, and Amon Amarth. Designed for students and their teachers, contributions explore the various musical styles and cultures of metal, providing an informative introduction for those new to the field and an up-to-date resource for readers familiar with the academic metal literature.

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Contents

List of Figures [page xii] List of Tables [xiii] Notes on Contributors [xiv]

- 1 Introduction JAN-PETER HERBST [1]
- 2 Get Your Double Kicks on Route 666: The Sonic Evolution of Heavy Metal across Five Unholy Decades ANDREW L. COPE [12]

PART I METAL, TECHNOLOGY AND PRACTICE

Personal Take I – Russ Russell [26]

- 3 Mapping the Origins of Heaviness between 1970 and 1995: A Historical Overview of Metal Music Production JAN-PETER HERBST AND MARK MYNETT [29]
- 4 Technical Ecstasy: Phenomenological Perspectives of Metal Music Production NIALL THOMAS [43]
- Not from the Mind But the Heart: The Metanarrative of Being in a Metal Band HALE FULYA ÇELIKEL [57]
- Timbral Metrics for Analysis of Metal Production: Then, Now and What Next?
 DUNCAN WILLIAMS [70]

PART II METAL AND HISTORY

Personal Take II – Brian Tatler [84]

7 Mesopotamian Metal: Learning from the Past through Metal Music? PETER PICHLER [87]

ix

х

Contents

- 8 Sparta and Metal Music's Reception of Ancient History JEREMY SWIST [99]
- 9 Viking Metal: Obsessed with the Past? IMKE VON HELDEN [114]

PART III METAL AND IDENTITY

Personal Take III – Jasmine Shadrack [128]

- 10 Metal Identities and Self-Talk: Internal Conversations of Belonging, Empowerment, Well-being and Resilience PAULA ROWE [131]
- 11 Metal in Women: Music, Empowerment, Misogyny ROSEMARY LUCY HILL [144]
- 12 Refuse/Resist: What Does It Mean for Metal to Be Transgressive in the Twenty-First Century? CATHERINE HOAD [156]

PART IV METAL ACTIVITIES

Personal Take VI – Richard Taylor [172]

- 13 Metal as Leisure Space and Tourism Industry Destination KARL SPRACKLEN [175]
- 14 Dance Practices in Metal DANIEL SUER [187]
- 15 Battle Jackets: Wearing Metal Identity THOMAS CARDWELL [202]

PART V MODERN METAL GENRES

Personal Take V – Arne Jamelle [218]

- 16 On Horseback They Carried Thunder: The Second Lives of Norwegian Black Metal ROSS HAGEN [221]
- Subgenre Qualifiers and Prescribed Creativity in Technical Death Metal
 LEWIS F. KENNEDY [237]

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

Cambridge University Press & Assessment 978-1-108-84586-1 — The Cambridge Companion to Metal Music Edited by Jan-Peter Herbst Frontmatter <u>More Information</u>

Contents
From 'Stereotyped Postures' to 'Credible Avant-Garde Strategies': The Alchemical Transformation of Drone Metal OWEN COGGINS [251]
Djent and the Aesthetics of Post-Digital Metal MARK MARRINGTON [265]
Contempt-of-Core: A Reception History of Metalcore Subgenres as Abject Genres ERIC SMIALEK [281]
PART VI GLOBAL METAL
Personal Take IV – Malcolm Dome [300]
Metal in the Middle East PIERRE HECKER [303]
Asian Metal Rising: Metal Scene Formation in the World's Most Populous Region JEREMY WALLACH [319]
Distortions in the Last Frontier: Metal Music in Africa EDWARD BANCHS [330]
What Has Latin American Metal Music Ever Done for Us?: A Call for an Ethics of Affront in Metal Music NELSON VARAS-DÍAZ AND DANIEL NEVÁREZ ARAÚJO [344]
Pioneers and Provocateurs: Australian Metal Music, Distance and Disregard SAMUEL VALLEN [357]
Select Academic Bibliography [371] Select Journalistic Bibliography [380] Index [384]

Figures

- 6.1 Spectral skew of drum stems [page 78]
- 6.2 Mel-spectrogram of a kick drum [78]
- 6.3 Spectral flux of a kick drum [78]
- 6.4 Mel-spectrogram of a guitar stem [79]
- 6.5 Spectral flux of a guitar stem compared to the spectral flux of a kick drum stem [79]
- Cover artwork to Unholy Archangel's album Obsessed by War, 2010 [106]
- 15.1 Moonsorrow, 2020 [205]
- 15.2 Metal fan photographed at Bloodstock Festival, 2014 [210]
- 15.3 Aidan's Jacket, 2015 [212]
- 16.1 The Scout in Winter, Crow, 1908 [229]
- 20.1a Melodic figuration during the first verse of Currents' 'Silence' [290]
- 20.1b Melodic figuration during Breakdown 1 of Currents' 'Silence' [290]
- 20.2 Single-note, syncopated rhythm during Breakdown 1 of Currents' 'Silence' [292]
- 20.3 Markers of djent during the second breakdown of Currents' 'Silence' [293]

xii

Tables

- 20.1 Abject genres and their characteristics [page 283]
- 20.2 Song form for Currents' 'Silence' (2017) [289]

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xiv

Cambridge University Press & Assessment 978-1-108-84586-1 — The Cambridge Companion to Metal Music Edited by Jan-Peter Herbst Frontmatter <u>More Information</u>

Notes on Contributors

xv

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xvi Notes on Contributors

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Notes on Contributors

xvii

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xviii Notes on Contributors

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Notes on Contributors

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XX

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