Lemmy - Damage Case: The Anthology (2006)

CD 1:

CD 2:

Although he'll forever be the "face" of one of metal's all-time great bands, Motörhead, Lemmy Kilmister also managed to lay down an assortment of non-Motörhead tracks over the years -- as evidenced by 2006's Damage Case: Lemmy Anthology. A handful of Motörhead tracks are indeed included, but Damage Case is not your typical zillionth Motörhead/Lemmy collection, as it traces all of the singer/bassist's standout tracks from his very first band, the Rockin' Vicars, all the way to his participation in Dave Grohl's much publicized Probot project. As proven throughout the 31-track collection, Lemmy has always kept things rough and gritty -- and should be commended (especially when seemingly all the veteran rock acts were softening up their sound and reaching for the hair spray come the mid- to late '80s). Included is the Lemmy-sung (but not written) Hawkwind classic "Silver Machine," as well as raucous duets with both Girlschool ("Please Don't Touch") and the late/great Wendy O. Williams ("Stand by Your Man"). Wrapping up the album is a barrage of covers that have been rescued from "tribute album hell,"
including a pair of Metallica tunes ("Enter Sandman" and "Whiplash"), Queen ("Tie Your Mother Down"), Johnny Cash ("Big River"), and Iron Maiden ("The Trooper"), among others. Also included are Lemmy's aforementioned Probot track ("Shake Your Blood") and Motörhead's tribute to the Ramones, "R.A.M.O.N.E.S.", the latter track being one that Lemmy should be given credit for penning -- he was one of the few rockers to voice his admiration of the N.Y.C. band while it was still a functioning unit. If you're looking to dig deeper than the average Motörhead compilation, Damage Case: Lemmy Anthology is certain to get your head a-banging.

---Greg Prato, Rovi

For many, heavy metal is personified by a single person -- unforgettable Motörhead bassist/shouter Lemmy. Born Ian Fraiser Kilmister on December 24, 1945, in Stoke-On-Trent, Staffordshire, England, not much is known about Kilmister's early years, just that he was the son of a vicar. With the British Invasion of the early '60s, the young Kilmister became interested in music, playing in such long-forgotten bluesy rock outfits as the Rainmakers, the Rockin' Vickers, and Opal Butterfly. After serving as Jimi Hendrix's guitar roadie on an early U.K. tour by the legendary American guitarist, Kilmister joined the psychedelic space rock band Hawkwind in 1971, playing bass and occasionally singing (the best-known Kilmister-sung track being the U.K. hit "Silver Machine" in 1972). But come early 1975, Kilmister (now known as simply "Lemmy"), was handed his walking papers from Hawkwind after being busted at the Canadian border for drug possession.

Undeterred and growing frustrated with Hawkwind's stagnant musical direction, Lemmy immediately set out to form his next band, which would be far more straightforward, stripped-down, loud, heavy, and aggressive than his previous bands. Dubbed Motörhead (British slang for a speed freak), the group went through several members before settling on the classic trio lineup of Lemmy on bass/vocals, Phil Taylor on drums, and Eddie Clarke on guitar, in 1976. While the band's look was classic heavy metal (long, unwashed stringy hair, denim and leather, etc.), their high-energy music was more aligned to the fleeting sounds of punk rock. 1977 saw the trio's self-titled debut released, and with such classic releases as Overkill, Bomber, Ace of Spades, and No Life 'Til Hammersmith issued over the next few years, Motörhead became one of the world's best-known and influential metal bands, lending a hand in creating thrash/speed metal.

While Motörhead's commercial success hit many peaks and valleys since their late-'70s and early-'80s "golden era" (as well as many members coming and going -- Lemmy has been the only constant figure), their fan base remained in tact. In addition to Motörhead, Lemmy has
helped co-write tracks for several notable hard rock artists (such as Lita Ford and Ozzy Osbourne), as well as appearing on such TV shows as The Young Ones and the films Eat the Rich, Decline of Western Civilization, Pt. II, Tromeo and Juliet, and Terror Firmer, as well as having a cameo (fully clothed) in the porno video John Wayne Bobbitt Uncut. ---Greg Prato, Rovi

Devastating news to relay, as legendary Motorhead frontman Lemmy Kilmister has died at age 70, December 28, 2015. According to Motorhead themselves, Lemmy succumbed from “a short battle with an extremely aggressive cancer.”

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