



TOP 40 ALBUMS OF 2007

Cartoon metal band makes top 30

Gogol Bordello

Super Taranta!

If you are the least bit excitable, it is inconceivable that *Super Taranta!* would not have you hanging from the rafters within the first minute of track one. Gogol Bordello's sound has become much fuller and the production level much more mature over the years.

The album doesn't have a bad song on it — from a passionate ballad to Eugene Hutz's drug of choice, "Alcohol," to a scathing satire about drab American weddings, the witty lyrics are engaging and wonderfully irreverent. The music itself is a mass of drums, strings, horns and hollering that fit together just perfectly. And if the tunes don't have you up dancing around like a proper gypsy punk, you might just be dead.

— Caitlin Wittliff

more bombastic '70s funk production and verses from the always-reliable Houston heavyweights.

— Zach Ernst

Devendra Banhart

Smokey Rolls Down Thunder Canyon

Listening to an album by certified "Freak Folk" Devendra Banhart is an exercise of utilitarianism — you have to weigh the good against the bad before you make your ultimate judgment on its merits. However, all of *Smokey Rolls Down Thunder Canyon*'s cringe-worthy moments — the questionable use of flutes, actor/hunk Gael Garcia Bernal on back-up vocals, etc. — can't detract from all that is right about the album. The track "Seahorse" is one of the year's strongest and sounds like what would happen if Banhart wrote his own version

"Metalocalypse" is now in its second season and going strong, but I'm sure no one anticipated that it would incite a spin-off disc that actually can be validly claimed as genius. Not only that, but, personally, *The Dethalbum* easily makes it into my list of top 10 albums of all time, and it started out as a joke. That's freakin' metal.

From the moment you pop it to the last ball-rocking second, this one will surely keep listeners' heads banging for hours and hours as they play it over and over again. Voiced by Small, Nathan Explosion's vocals bark a demonically deep growl that, somehow, comes off both serious and playful, as on the underwater-death opener "Murmaider," which has him going through a checklist of the instruments of pain you will need to survive as he tells a tale of lunacy ending with your death at the hands of

held a very high status on the charts, being the best-selling death-metal album of all time. With statistics like this, we'd be fools not to put *The Dethalbum* onto the list.

— Jacob Payne

The Polyphonic Spree

The Fragile Army

With their flowing robes, vaguely cultish aesthetic and sugar-sweet songwriting, The Polyphonic Spree, Tim DeLaughter's two dozen-strong Dallas-based choral symphonic pop collective, has long drawn derision from critical circles. Entertainment Weekly famously declared their 2004 album, *Together We're Heavy*, the year's second-worst — behind only William Hung's debut — while the endless licensing of that album's "Light & Day" in everything from an episode of "Scrubs" to Volkswagen commercials tests