

Puluche Album Review Rubric ©

Artist: Metallica

Album Title: Master of Puppets (1986) - Elektra

Categories	Criteria				Rating
	4 - Exemplary	3 - Proficient	2 - Developing	1 - Underdeveloped	
<u>Compositions</u>	Every song is quality and has a distinctive appeal of its own. Tracks have a perfect flow and continuity that enhance the album's overall appeal.	Many quality songs with some distinctive appeal. Tracks have a good flow and continuity that enhance the album's overall appeal.	Some quality songs with distinctive appeal but not sustained. Track flow and continuity have little effect on album's overall appeal.	Few to no quality songs lacking any distinctive appeal. Track flow and continuity have little/poor effect on album's overall appeal.	20
<u>Breaking Ground</u>	Has impressive elements of high creativity and is experimentally innovative. Developing own signature sound. Shows extreme growth and/or potential as a substantial and influential artist.	Features elements of creativity and uniqueness. Shows growth and/or potential as a developing and influential artist, but some stagnation as an established artist.	Has very few moments of creativity and uniqueness. Shows a little growth and/or some potential as a developing artist, but notable regression as an established artist.	Has no creativity and uniqueness. Shows no growth and/or little potential as a developing or established artist.	20
<u>Engagement</u>	Music has a transcending quality with numerous songs that grab the listener on respective emotional/social levels. Many songs have an addictive effect and memorable quality.	Music has transcending qualities with some songs that grab the listener on respective emotional/social levels. Some songs have an addictive effect and memorable quality.	Music has some transcending qualities with few songs that appeal on respective emotional/social levels, as well as having any addictive or memorable qualities.	Music has minimal transcending qualities and few to no songs that appeal on respective emotional/social levels. No positive memorable qualities - only negative.	20
<u>Lyrics</u>	Has a strong lyrical voice with multiple thought-provoking messages with clear and/or possible meanings and depth.	Has notable lyrical voice with some thought-provoking messages and/or possible meanings and depth.	Has limited lyrical voice with few-to-no thought-provoking messages, meanings and depth.	Has a weak lyrical voice with no thought-provoking messages or meanings and seriously lacks any depth.	20
<u>Production</u>	Masterful sound quality with noticeable studio techniques employed that demand headphone inquiry. Vision flawlessly executed. Overall packaging and artwork effectively compliments and enhances album enjoyment.	Very good sound quality with some noticeable studio techniques that demand headphone inquiry. Vision is acceptable. Overall packaging and artwork compliments album enjoyment.	Decent sound quality with few-to-no noticeable studio techniques employed. Vision is questionable. Overall packaging and artwork fails to compliment album.	Questionable sound quality with no noticeable studio techniques. Lacks vision. Overall packaging and artwork fails to compliment album.	20

<p><u>Comments</u></p>	<p>Listening to <i>Master of Puppets</i> is a mix of emotions. In-between moments of head-banging, one can't help but to remember that this is the last album fans ever got from the 1983-86 Metallica lineup. Bassist and back vocalist Cliff Burton died in Sweden during the band's European leg of the Damage Inc. tour that supported this album.</p> <p>It was in the year 1986 that Metallica solidified their place in trash metal and in the hearts of rock/metal fans for generations to come. <i>Master of Puppets</i> was the second album produced during Metallica's partnership with Flemming Rasmussen, who also produced <i>Ride The Lightning</i> and ...<i>And Justice for All</i>.</p> <p><i>Master of Puppets</i>, the band's third studio album, released eight powerhouse songs that shared heartfelt and honest emotions to the tune of control and abuse of power. The dynamic title track, "Master of Puppets," is a good example of the album's creative lyrics. "Veins that pump with fear, sucking darkest clear/Leading on your deaths construction" are just some of the lyrics of living a life controlled by drugs that have made this song a memorable metal anthem. Despite the social changes of the 80s, it was still taboo to be open about this lyrical subject matter, proving again that Metallica were trendsetters in the genre.</p> <p><i>Master of Puppets</i> put Metallica in a league of their own when it comes to their sound. Each track on this album is quality work, and they flow in a way that continues the overall drive. "Battery" is the track that sets the tone for the album as the opener begins with a little acoustic guitar instrumentation that can be best described as the calm before the storm...the storm of pounding drums and insane guitar riffs that continues in the tracks to follow and demand attention. "Orion" is eight or so minutes of magnificent instrumentation that specifically features Cliff's lead bass playing style. His solo is an original work of art and a reflection of his technical skills that make him one of the best bassist's to ever play metal. Despite absence of lyrics, this track doesn't stray from the overall sound of the album.</p> <p>The album closes with "Damage Inc.," another top track from the album with an opening of sound waves that build anticipation and lead into a military-styled frenzy of drumbeats and guitar playing that continues throughout the track.</p> <p>Since <i>Master of Puppets</i>, Metallica has continued to master a brilliance for creating thoughtful and emotional lyrics and pairing them with heavy and driving instrumentation. Their style has changed, becoming more commercial since the release of the <i>Black Album</i>. Despite the dismay of some fans, the band continues to produce platinum-status records, achieve unimaginable accolades (such as the title of "The First Band to Perform on All Seven Continents"), and grow their fan base with a new generation of metal/rock music.</p> <p>If the band didn't carry on after Cliff's death, this album would have been a great final record and would still have its legendary status. Lucky for us, Metallica continues to rock, as they believe Cliff would have wanted, and has seen immeasurable success thanks to their loyal fan base that has recognized excellence in the music they produce. <i>Master of Puppets</i> remains their signature album and is indeed metal perfection.</p>	<p>100</p>
<p><u>Commendations</u></p>	<p>It is obvious that <i>Master of Puppets</i> is an amazing album and a staple in thrash metal/rock culture. The album was the thrash genre's first platinum release, and it redefined what was to come in mainstream metal. It solidified Metallica's reputation for powerhouse music and made them innovators of the genre and the bar to measure</p>	

	<p>up to. In recent years, <i>Master of Puppets</i> has been included on several best albums lists, including: No. 67 on <i>Rolling Stone's 500 Greatest Albums of All Time</i> (2003) and Time Magazine's 100 Best Albums of All Time (2006).</p>
<p><u>Next Steps</u></p>	<p>After going platinum with <i>Master of Puppets</i>, Metallica would end the 80s with the release of ...<i>And Justice For All</i>. During the 90s, the band released three more studio albums – <i>Metallica</i>, <i>Load</i>, and <i>Reload</i> with mixed reception. 2003 brought a lineup change as Robert Trujillo would replace Jason Newsted, who departed to focus on his side projects. While he did not perform on <i>St. Anger</i>, Metallica's first album in the new millennium, Trujillo's permanent residency with the group began on the album's support tour.</p> <p>The 2000s also brought the release of <i>Death Magnetic</i> and the World Magnetic Tour shortly after. The band hasn't released any studio albums since but created the independent music label, Blackened Records. The band, including past and present members, was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2009.</p> <p>Metallica joined forces with Slayer, Megadeth, and Anthrax for global tour dates in 2010 and 2011 as part of the Big Four tour.</p> <p>In September 2013, the band created their own 3D concert experience, <i>Metallica: Through the Never</i>, which was released on IMAX screens. They ended the year by playing a show, Freeze 'Em All, in Antarctica, becoming the first band to ever play on all seven continents. In an interview afterwards, Lars Ulrich stated that 2014 would be about making the next Metallica record with a hopeful 2015 release date.</p>
<p><u>Reviewer</u></p>	<p>Lindsey Riley IRC: Lilien Pautasso</p>