

## DARKFALL

'At The End Of Times'  
Melodic Death Metal  
Black Sunset/MDO



This Austrian band may have in existence since 1995, but there's only one person in the band that has stuck around since that time as the band releases only their second album. My initial impressions after listening to the first track, 'Ride Through The Sky', were not promising - standard melodic death metal that I've heard hundreds of times before. However as the album progresses some better ideas are revealed and a much more aggressive posture on 'The Breed Of Death', which rockets out of the blocks with some quality double kick blasting. I also like the demonic vocal style and the song has a slight thrash touch to the riffing that continues on 'The Way Of Victory'. 'Ashes Of Dead Gods' is death metal, with a hammering riff and intermittent blast beat phases and the song has some similarities to Behemoth. I must admit the precipitous drop into an acoustic section caught me unawares, but it works well in creating a sinister aura, especially with those demonized vocals added. 'Blutgott' starts beautifully with a serene guitar melody that is very addictive and leads into a very tuneful riff that has a touch of Rotting Christ about it, and a female vocal line is added to great effect, although the song doesn't really need it. 'Ash Nazg - One Ring' has a grisly death metal riff to it, backed up by some loose symphonics

in the background, which again, like the female vocals, are not needed.

About two thirds of this album is great, but the band has tried to add too much to each song, which means the cohesion has suffered slightly, but overall this is a decent release and worth checking out.

POWERPOINTS: ①②③④⑤⑥⑦

MARTIN HARRIS