



## “Target Earth”

European street date: January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013

VOIVOD's career path has endured as many shifts and disturbances as the music itself. From major label deals and big-time tours to slogging it out in clubs while metal went through growing pains in the mid 1990s; from high profile bass player ex-Metallica man Jason Newsted to Eric Forrest, who pulled double duty as bassist and vocalist in the mid/late '90s. Both men departed from the band by varying degrees of accident and physical injury. The Quebecois prog metal pioneers have persevered through thick and thin to arrive at a comfortable place in 2012 -- a place of rebirth, rejuvenation and respect.

VOIVOD's various lineups have often revolved around the changing of bass players. In the mid '90s, bassist/vocalist Eric Forrest entered the fold to make the band a trio for the first time. After two albums, a collection called *Kronik* and the *Voivod Lives* live set, Eric was laid up to do a van accident incurred during a road jaunt. Several years later, ex-Metallica bassist Jason Newsted did his part to help revitalize the band again, and after 2003's VOIVOD S/T album, an extensive stint on Ozzfest and supporting Ozzy on an arena tour. The band's Mark IV lineup is as good a lineup as could exist without original guitarist and chief riff catalyst Denis "Piggy" D'Amour. His tragic passing in 2005 threw the band into a period of hiatus, and it was only an event of such unthinkable gravity that could bring surviving members Denis "Snake" Belanger and Michel "Away" Langevin back together with bassist Jean-Yves "Blacky" Theriault.

Estranged after disagreements during the recording of 1991's *Angel Rat*, Blacky -- who handled "blower" bass for the band since their formation in 1983 -- came back to the fold in 2008. When the three surviving members decided to keep the legacy of Piggy alive, there happened to be exactly one perfect match for the job: Daniel "Chewy" Mongrain. A veteran of tech-death monsters Martyr, the very first metal album Mongrain owned was VOIVOD's 1987 album *Killing Technology*, and his first live metal show was seeing that very same band in 1990. Mongrain grew up on VOIVOD. He worshipped and eventually learned Piggy's innovative techniques. He looked up to his local heroes, and his band even covered VOIVOD's "Brain Scan" in 2006, which also featured Blacky himself on guest bass. It was a collaboration that served as the testing ground for both men to join/rejoin the VOIVOD fold in the coming years.

Once Piggy's final recordings were made into albums with Jason, Snake and Away working to cobble together the demo's they had written together (2006's *Katorz* and 2009's *Infini*), a revitalized VOIVOD hit the road, largely as a means to keep Piggy's music alive, to celebrate all that VOIVOD had meant to so many fans around the world. After several jaunts through North and South America, Europe and Japan, the new lineup began itching to do more than just exist as a tribute to itself. A new song, "Kaleidos," began showing up in live sets, and response was positive enough to keep the band writing and driving in the only direction they've ever known: forward.

The result of that drive is 2013's *Target Earth* album. Recorded at producer Pierre Rémillard's Wild Studios in Quebec and mixed by Sanford Parker (Pelican, *Nachtmystium*) the album is out right in time for the band's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. For this release, VOIVOD's own company, Iron Gang Factory, joins with global powerhouse Century Media Records for a January 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> worldwide release. It's something the band's diehard fans are eagerly anticipating, and to say the songs of *Target Earth* run the gamut of VOIVOD's capabilities would be an understatement. Where "Corps Étranger" steams forward at a frantic clip, so does "Kluskap O'Kom," the latter more refined and layered, while incorporating what are perhaps the first-ever backup gang vocals heard on a VOIVOD album. On the other side of the spectrum is "Empathy for the Enemy," a thoughtful art-metal landscape. Several tracks carry the creepy, folkloric vibe of the *Angel Rat* album; the title track is quintessential VOIVOD sci-fi metal; and strange studio trickery splices up a variety of tracks, lending additional depth to the listening experience. Mongrain's riffs possess the angular trademark of Piggy's approach, and the entire band challenged themselves in constructing some

of the trickiest arrangements heard on a VOIVOD album since their *Nothingface* phase (such as the dizzying changes of “Mechanical Mind”).

But while reference points can be made to previous Voivodian eras, there is more new than old here, and that is the way it has always been with the band. Even the cover artwork is both familiar and brand new. Drawn by drummer Away, as ever, the image of an armored, gun-toting nuclear warrior recalls the band’s 1984 *War and Pain* debut, but he is rendered entirely differently, while a brand new VOIVOD logo flies above the scene.

VOIVOD’s 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrates their career as one of metal’s most influential bands. The handful of live albums, reissues and DVDs that began to surface in the past ten years proved how beloved this band really is, and now comes another album of inspired fresh material that proves VOIVOD still have many new paths to travel. What band continues to redefine and reinvent themselves 13 studio albums and 30 years into their career? There is only one answer to that question: VOIVOD.

**VOIVOD - Target Earth**

01. Target Earth	(06:05)
02. Kluskap O’Kom	(04:24)
03. Empathy for the Enemy	(05:46)
04. Mechanical Mind	(07:36)
05. Warchaic	(07:01)
06. Resistance	(06:46)
07. Kaleidos	(06:28)
08. Corps Étranger	(04:36)
09. Artefact	(06:26)
10. Defiance	(01:33)

**(56:42)**

**Discography:**

<i>War and Pain</i> , 1984
<i>Rrrööaaarr</i> , 1986
<i>Killing Technology</i> , 1987
<i>Dimension Hatröss</i> , 1988
<i>Nothingface</i> , 1989
<i>Angel Rat</i> , 1991
<i>The Best of Voivod</i> (compilation), 1992
<i>The Outer Limits</i> , 1993
<i>Negatron</i> , 1995
<i>Phobos</i> , 1997
<i>Kronik</i> (compilation), 1998
<i>Voivod Lives</i> (live album), 2000
<i>Voivod</i> , 2003
<i>D-V-O-D-1</i> DVD, 2005
<i>Katorz</i> , 2006
<i>Infini</i> , 2009
<i>Tatsumaki: Voivod in Japan 2008</i> DVD, 2009
<i>Warriors of Ice</i> (live album), 2011
<i>Mechanical Mind</i> , 7” Single
<i>Target Earth</i> , 2013

**Line-Up:**

Denis “Snake” Belanger - Voice  
Daniel “Chewy” Mongrain - Guitar  
Jean -Yves “Blacky” Theriault - Bass  
Michel “Away” Langevin - Drums

**VOIVOD online:**

[www.voivod.com](http://www.voivod.com)  
[www.facebook.com/Voivod](http://www.facebook.com/Voivod)  
[www.irongang.com](http://www.irongang.com)  
[www.voivod.net](http://www.voivod.net)



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