



Photo courtesy of Atlantic Records.

The Brand New Heavies are Simon Bartholomew, Andrew Levy and Jan Kincaid.

Brand New Heavies create funky new sound by blending rap, 1970s jazz-funk music

Brand New Heavies
"Heavy Rhyme Experience: Volume 1"
Delicious Vinyl Inc.

In their second effort, the Brand New Heavies go back to the old school and blend rap music together with some live jazz-funk to create "Heavy Rhyme Experience: Volume 1."

Keeping with the tone of their first album, the Heavies have incorporated the help of some of rap's most inspiring artists.

Main Source kicks this album off with a track called "Bonafied Funk," which has a driving jazz-fusion type of melody to it. The bass guitar, along with the drums and cymbals, will remind the listener of late 1970s la Earth, Wind and Fire.

Gang Starr follows with "Getting Hectic," which is an old school style rap dissing fake weak rappers.

The song that epitomizes the theme of the whole LP is "Who Makes the Loot," featuring Grand Puba. This track is a smooth silky sounding funk rap. Puba is able to flow smoothly along with the funky base line.

"Death Threat" featuring Kool G. Rap is the hardest song on this LP. Kool G. Rap flows hard to a fluid riff.

"State of Yo" featuring Black Sheep, sounding like Heavy D, is a light-hearted rap that talks about going with the flow.

The funkier tune on this LP is "Soul Flower," which is a take-off of James Brown's song of the same name and features rap newcomers Pharcyde,

This track, with its lightning quick raps, grabs the attention of the listener.

One of the best parts of this LP is the fact that there is virtually no sampling. In the rap industry, sampling has become common practice and in "Heavy Rhyme Experience," there are only two instances. In "Wake Me When I'm Dead," featuring Master Ace, KRS-1 is sampled. In "Do Whatta I Goua Do," featuring Ed O.G., Bobby Brown is sampled.

The diversity in the styles of music also makes this LP go. "Jump and Move," featuring former Boogie Down Production member Jamalski, and "Whatgaboutthat," featuring Tiger, are tracks that play up some reggae/hip-hop fusion that is a nice change of pace within the LP.

One of the problems with this otherwise good LP is that from one song to another, the base lines start to sound the same, and thus, after a few songs they become unoriginal.

Overall this is a good LP, the rap/hip-hop/jazz-funk/reggae/fusion style with which this LP is formatted does the job. The Brand New Heavies have done an excellent job of harnessing the talents of various rappers.

Incorporating their European style with the ability of these rappers, the Heavies have come up with 10 entertaining tracks.

The style the Heavies use is one to be admired because it is a switch from conventional synthesizing music style to one of old school seventies type style.

— Anthony D. Speights

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