

## **Metallica: Live At M and T Bank Stadium: The Heavy Metal Experience**

My name is Julian Johnson. I am an African-American college student here at CCBC Catonsville. I'm a Mass Communications major. One thing that people don't know about me is that I'm a metal head and I'm proud. I am writing this article to tell you about my experience at the Metallica Concert on May 10, 2017 from M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore. One thing about this concert was that it was my first metal concert. I have always been a heavy metal fan since I was in high school. I received the opportunity of a lifetime from Professor Beth Baunoch and Professor Jeremy Caplan of the Mass Communications Department located in the Humanities Hall on campus. They wanted me to write an article on the concert for the CCBC Connection. So, sit back and relax as I take you down the dark roads of heavy metal.

One thing that made this concert amazing was that I saw three bands instead of one. I received special VIP access to view the show from the mosh pit. Two bands that opened for Metallica were Volbeat and Avenged Sevenfold. When I first came into the stadium there were metal fans all around that were preparing for this amazing night of metal. Everywhere you saw metal fans who expressed through fashion such as heavy metal leather jackets, spikes, and the occasional t-shirt. These accessories showed off the fans of famous metal acts such as Led Zeppelin, Deep Purple, Exodus, Slayer, Ozzy Osbourne, Kix, Anthrax, Disturbed, Black Sabbath, Ted Nugent and many more. The first act that drew a crowd of over 70,000 people was the heavy metal act Volbeat. Volbeat is known for their very unique style of metal. Their music combines 1950's rockabilly music played by artists such as Elvis Presley and Chuck Berry with the dark overtones of Black Sabbath, Judas Priest and Motorhead. Their set list included a song from their most recent hit album *Seal the Deal & Let's Boogie* from 2016 which was "The Devil's Bleeding Crown". They also played a hit from their previous album *Outlaw Gentlemen*

& Shady Ladies released in 2013 such as “The Hangman’s Body Count”. Volbeat finished their set with an amazing heavy metal cover of “Ring of Fire” by Johnny Cash.

The night continued as Avenged Sevenfold came to the stage. I was excited to see this band because I saw the lead singer M. Shadows on Eddie Trunk’s That Metal Show. Eddie Trunk is a heavy metal radio personality. He has a major influence on me as a mass communications student. Seeing M. Shadows live on the stage was an amazing sight for me to see. I like Avenges Sevenfold because their metal sound is similar to Metallica’s. When Avenged Sevenfold first started out they were considered an extreme metal band. They were credited as being a metalcore band. Metalcore is a style of extreme metal that combines elements of traditional heavy metal music with the aggression of hardcore punk. Metalcore is still considered an underground metal music genre today. Avenged Sevenfold’s setlist included songs from their recent album The Stage released in 2016. These songs include The Stage and God Damn. Also, they sang their anthem “Hail To The King” from the album of the same name. My personal favorite was when they sang “Nightmare” from the album of the same name. Avenged Sevenfold’s performance was amazing with the use of pyrotechnics. These pyrotechnics include flames that were shot from the stage. The effect of the flames allowed you to feel a burst of heat on your face. Metallica also used this effect for their show.

The best part of the night was when Metallica finished off the concert. It was a spectacular performance. All of the members of Metallica were on fire that night (literally!). Their setlist included many of their iconic songs such as Fuel which featured flame pyrotechnics to the extreme. In addition, they had lasers and backdrops that represented their album covers. Each member of the group had a solo. Lead guitarist Kirk Hammett played a sample of the solo

from Jimi Hendrix's "Third Stone from the Sun". Drummer Lars Ulrich played a solo on Metallica's Seek and Destroy. Lead Singer James Hetfield played a solo on his guitar that introduced Metallica's "Enter Sandman". Finally, the best solo of the night in my opinion was bass player Rob Trujillo's solo. Trujillo paid tribute to the original bass player of Metallica Cliff Burton. Many metal fans know that Cliff Burton died back in 1986 from a bus accident. A drunk driver crashed the bus into a tree which jerked Cliff through the window of the bus. The bus then toppled over and landed on Burton killing him. The tribute to Cliff was a very emotional night for metal fans. Throughout the setlist, Metallica played along to their music videos such as "Halo On Fire" from their recent album Hardwired...To Self-Destruct. They also played along to their music video for "The Unforgiven" from the Black Album. Finally, the night ended with a fireworks spectacular that blazed through the night sky. Each of the band members concluded the show by expressing their gratitude to Baltimore for being a great audience.

One key aspect of the show that I want people to get out of this is that heavy metal music is more than just music. For many, heavy metal music is a way of life. As a heavy metal music fan myself, I gravitated toward this music because I didn't fit with the popular crowd. Growing up, I never had any friends. In addition, I never had any close friends that I hung out with. All I had was music to comfort me. The main message that I want to show people in this article is that you shouldn't stereotype people just because they look a certain way or have their own style.

One highlight of the Metallica concert was when James Hetfield pointed out to the audience, "We don't care what religion you are, what color you are, the fact that you are here celebrating great music together, you are all a part of the Metallica family". Everyone in the audience made this metal concert a diverse population. You had everyone from Caucasians, African-Americans, Latinos, and even Asians. There was an interracial couple where an African-American metalhead

was with his Caucasian metalhead girlfriend. I also saw two young women with disabilities. One woman was on crutches while the other was in a wheelchair. They both stayed in the mosh pit where it was extremely crowded. There were even metalheads who were from the 1970's: Heavy Metal's classic era. This was an amazing night for the whole metal community of Baltimore. I would like to thank Professor Beth Baunoch and Jeremy Caplan for making this article and experience a reality. Also, I would like to thank my Mom and my mentor Mr. Christopher Providence for supporting me. Finally, I would like to dedicate this article to the New Media Collective Club and Mass Communications Department here on campus. Thank you and Stay Metal!!!!!!



