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## Concert Review: Metallica's Orion Music And More Festival

This past weekend, the [Orion Music and More Festival](#) made its debut in Atlantic City, NJ. Curated entirely by the mighty [Metallica](#) (and named in memory of their departed bassist Cliff Burton, who shined in their instrumental piece "Orion"), the four members —singer James Hetfield, guitarist Kirk Hammett, drummer Lars Ulrich and bassist Rob Trujillo—handpicked bands and selected special exhibits for the festival held at Bader Field, just a few blocks off of the famous Boardwalk on Saturday and Sunday.



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At the time of the festival's [announcement](#), the initial musical lineup was quite a surprise to diehard fans of [Metallica](#). Bands like soul punks The Gaslight Anthem, alt-country rockers Lucero, indie darlings Best Coast and country star Eric Church had some fans, who were expecting an all-metal festival, scratching their heads. Weeks [later](#), lineup additions such as Sepultura, Volbeat and Suicidal Tendencies eased their concerns. But in the end, the metalheads showed up in droves and gave everyone a chance.

The festival was not limited to music played on its four stages ("Orion", "Damage Inc.", "Fuel" and "Frantic"). Included in the festivities were comedians Jim Florentine, Don Jamieson, Jim

Breuer and Shuli Egar as well as attractions that were extensions of the four members' individual tastes and personalities. Hetfield was behind a fantastic custom car show that saw his own personal 1936 Auburn Boat Tail Speedster and 1936 Lincoln Zephyr on display, as well as unique works of art like the lamplit Munsters Death Coach and coffin-bodied Dragula cars. Hammett paid tribute to his love for Horror films with special "Kirk's Crypt" presentations featuring the man himself discussing his upcoming book "Too Much Horror Business" and a professional makeup artist who took concertgoers and turned them into bloody zombies who caused near heart-attacks as they walked back out into the grounds among the living. Ulrich screened films in his Hit The lights tent while Trujillo brought skating to the festival with Vans' Motorbreath Mini skate ramp.

All four members regularly appeared throughout the day either at their own attraction or on stage introducing acts. Ulrich was spotted introducing the Gaslight Anthem and Avenged Sevenfold, Hetfield introducing comedian Jim Breuer, and bassist Trujillo introducing New Orleans brass band Soul Rebels (Trujillo also joined his former band Suicidal Tendencies on stage during their live set). Each gave personal touches to the intros, giving a bit of insight about their connection to each band. Ulrich recalled meeting The Gaslight Anthem in Europe and hanging out in Gaslight's home turf of New Brunswick with legend Johnny Z; Trujillo mentioned Soul Rebels opened for them in San Francisco recently; Hetfield declared his love for Swedish band Ghost, whose nightmare-inducing theatrical getups were a bit jarring at 2pm in the afternoon sun, by saying "It's never too early for 'scary.'"

Aside from the massive traffic jams on Saturday caused by festival attendees and the usual Atlantic City weekend crowd fighting their way in and out of the town, things seemed to go pretty smoothly and the festival was a great success. The turnout was impressive and it was clear the band was genuinely excited to be there. Metallica's pyro-filled sets on Saturday and Sunday were most likely the highlight of everyone's day, showing that even though they've been around for 30 years, they are still the Masters of Metal.

Check out my slideshow from the festival [here](#), with additional photos from Orion Music And More [here](#). You can follow me on Twitter at [@ConcertExaminer](#)! Also, be sure to check out fellow Examiner Elliot Levin's coverage [here](#).