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INSIDE THE
WORLD OF ROCK

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Heaven And Hell album due in April.

CR given a taste of band's debut.

CLASSIC ROCK HAS heard three unfinished tracks from Heaven And Hell's debut album. In a world-exclusive we visited vocalist Ronnie James Dio, guitarist Tony Iommi, bassist Geezer Butler and drummer Vinny Appice on the final day of tracking at Rockfield Studios in Wales.

Some final touches were still to be added; for example Iommi wanted to add guitar solos at his home studio, and the material was in an unmixed state. Due to be released in late April, the album's 10 tracks were co-produced by the group and engineer Mike Exeter.

The songs we heard were a moody, thuddingly malevolent number called *Rock 'N' Roll Jesus*, the pacier and more anthemic *Neverwhere*, and a slice of sloth-like majesty that's likely to be titled *Breaking Into Heaven*. Other tracks expected to appear include *Bible Black*, *Double Pain* and *Atom + Evil*.

With the band having recorded three tracks for the *Black Sabbath: The Dio Years* anthology and played around 100 shows as Heaven And Hell, writing began at Iommi and Dio's houses in England and California respectively, either side of the Metal Masters tour of America with Motörhead, Judas Priest and Testament.

"Each of us submitted a CD of our ideas, and we narrowed it down from there," explains Iommi. "In some ways it was like picking up where we'd left off with *Dehumanizer* [Sabbath's 1992 album], which was also done at Rockfield."

"I never thought this band would get back together, but here we are," marvels Appice. "Everyone's more mature, and when we play together it's just a monster."

Touring plans are currently being finalised, with appearances at the Sweden Rock Festival, France's Hellfest and Waldrock in Holland already confirmed. **DL**

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Muse: 'orchestral' album in late '09.

ALSO ON THE WAY IN 2009...

The world of classic rock is rich and varied, and there's a host of albums to be released during the coming months. Here's a very brief appetiser/shopping list for what looks like being yet another exciting year.

- **Rush** are recovering from a world tour, but guitarist Alex Lifeson says that the band's producer, Nick Raskulinecz, is pushing them into recording a concept album.

- **Europe's** eighth studio album, *More Is More*, is being produced by Tobias Lindell.

- **Kiss** are writing material for a new album which, according to Paul Stanley, will be "in the style of our classic 1970s recordings". There's also talk of Kiss doing a co-headlining world tour with Queen + Paul Rodgers.

- **John Fogerty** has recorded a follow-up to his 1973 record *Blue Ridge Rangers*, titled *The Return Of The Blue Ridge Rangers*.

- **Pearl Jam** are expected to have a new album out next summer, hot on the heels of their extensive reissue programme earlier in the year.

- **Ozzy Osbourne** has enough material recorded with producer Kevin Churko for two solo albums. Whether he releases a double or two singles remains to be seen.

- **Muse** are working on their fifth album. Said to be orchestral in scope, the band expect it to be released in the second half of the year.

- **Lynyrd Skynyrd** hope to release their as-yet untitled studio album in time for a UK tour in May.

- **Joe Bonamassa's** new album, *The Ballad Of John Henry*, is expected in March.

- **Steven Wilson's** debut solo album, *Insurgentes*, arrives via Kscope on February 24.

- **Lita Ford** has written 20 songs for her first album since 1995's *Black*. "It's going to be harder and sexier than anything I've ever done," says the former Runaways guitarist.

- **Morrissey's** new studio album, *Years Of Refusal*, is released via Polydor/Decca on February 16.

- **Y&T** celebrate their 35th anniversary as a band by recording their first album of original material in a decade. Expect it in late 2009.

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This month *The Dirt* was compiled by Dave Ling, Ian Fortnam, Malcolm Dome, Lee Dorrian, Michael Brook, Henry Yates, Hugh Fielder, Storm Thorgersen, Scott Rowley, Will Simpson, Andy Hughes.