

Forever (Code Orange album)

Forever is the third studio album by American metalcore band Code Orange. It is the band's major label debut on Roadrunner Records following a stint on the indie label Deathwish Inc. and was released on January 13, 2017.

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Promotion and marketing

Promotion for *Forever* began with the release of a Max Moore-directed music video for the title and opening track, "Forever," in October 2016.^[1] Presented entirely in black, white and red like the album's cover art, the video for "Forever" rapidly cuts between scenes of Code Orange performing and other violent or abstract imagery, often with shaky camera footage. Of the video, Jami Morgan said: "I think the visuals match what we're about. It's definitely brutal and it's dark, but I think we have our own specific brand of it that includes a lot of dynamics of dark and a lot of shades of that."^[2] In December 2016, Code Orange released a digitally created "visualizer" for the track "Kill the Creator". Created by Brandon Allen Bolmer, the video shows a naked man in a chamber being tortured by a "hellish force that he created from all the wrong he has done."^[3] In the weeks leading up to the album's official release date, Code Orange also released online streams of the tracks "Bleeding in the Blur" and "Ugly" in January 2017.^{[4][5]}

Touring in support of *Forever* began with a January–February 2017 US tour featuring Youth Code, Gatecreeper, Nicole Dollanganger, Lifeless and Disgrace.^[4] The tour was noted for its wide variety of music genres among the bands on the bill. On the subject of the variety of bands, Morgan said: "I don't think it's something people are going to get to see every day. It's gonna be a very jarring experience. And our set's going to be a jarring experience. And the whole show is going to be a jarring experience, so that's what we're all about."^[2] Guitarist Eric Balderose collaborated with Drumcorps to create a mixtape under the moniker Shade titled *It's Almost Forever* that will be played between sets and exclusively sold on cassette on this tour.^[6]

Music

<i>Forever</i>	
 <div>CODE ORANGE</div> <div></div> <div>FOREVER</div>	
Studio album by Code Orange	
Released	January 13, 2017
Genre	Metalcore · hardcore punk · industrial
Length	34:54
Label	Roadrunner
Producer	Kurt Ballou · Will Yip
Code Orange chronology	
<i>I Am King</i> (2014)	<i>Forever</i> (2017)

Described as a metallic hardcore album,^[7] *Forever* features influences from various different styles in metal and hardcore, including industrial metal and nu metal.^[8] The album also employs "pitch-shifted vocal samples, glitched-out effects and dissonant layers of screeching noise."^[9] The track "Bleeding in the Blur" features alternative rock-influenced choruses, clean vocals^[9] and stoner metal riffage^[8] whereas "Hurt Goes On" attributes influences to Nine Inch Nails's musical output.^{[8][10]} The album has also been described as industrial hardcore.^{[11][12]}

Critical reception

At Metacritic, which assigns a normalized rating out of 100 to reviews from mainstream publications, the album received an average score of 87, which indicates "universal acclaim", based on six reviews.^[13]

The A.V. Club critic J.J. Anselmi wrote: "Despite its ridiculous lyrical moments, *Forever* advances the trend of mashing together disparate styles in metal and hardcore."^[8] Branan Ranjanathan of *Exclaim!* thought that "Code Orange have put together a record that few others in the genre would have the nerve to attempt making, and have found a number of ways to stay engaging across the set without losing any of their previous weight or momentum."^[9] Metal Injection's Michael Pementel noted the "great use of structure, heaviness, surprises, and pure energy from beginning to end in this album."^[14] Pitchfork critic Zoe Camp stated that the band "offers up compelling, caustic, and occasionally even catchy evidence that they have earned their alpha-dog scene posturing."^[10]

Professional ratings	
Aggregate scores	
Source	Rating
<u>Metacritic</u>	87/100 ^[13]
Review scores	
Source	Rating
<i>The A.V. Club</i>	B ^[8]
<i>Exclaim!</i>	9/10 ^[9]
<u>Metal Injection</u>	8.5/10 ^[14]
<u>Pitchfork</u>	7.5/10.0 ^[10]
<i>Rock Sound</i>	8/10 ^[7]

Stephen Hill of Metal Hammer wrote that "this is resolutely hardcore punk, while remaining completely unique" and called it "a stone cold modern classic", as well as giving it a score 9 out of 10.^[15]

Accolades

Year	Publication	Country	Accolade	Rank	
2017	<i>Loudwire</i>	<u>United States</u>	"25 Best Metal Albums of 2017"	3	[16]
2017	<i>Revolver</i>	<u>United States</u>	"20 Best Albums of 2017"	1	[17]
2017	<i>Rolling Stone</i>	<u>United States</u>	"20 Best Metal Albums of 2017"	1	[18]
2017	<i>Exclaim!</i>	<u>Canada</u>	"Top 10 Metal and Hardcore Albums of 2017"	3	[19]

Track listing

No.	Title	Length
1.	"Forever"	3:07
2.	"Kill the Creator"	2:26
3.	"Real"	3:07
4.	"Bleeding in the Blur"	4:04
5.	"The Mud"	4:10
6.	"The New Reality"	2:03

7. "Spy"	3:22
8. "Ugly"	3:09
9. "No One Is Untouchable"	2:23
10. "Hurt Goes On"	4:00
11. "dream2"	3:03

Personnel

Code Orange

- Eric Balderose – vocals, guitars, synthesizer
- Reba Meyers – vocals, guitars
- Joe Goldman – bass
- Jami Morgan – drums, vocals

Additional musicians

- Dominic Landolina – additional guitars
- Arthur Rizk – solo guitar on "Bleeding in the Blur"
- AJ Borish – additional vocals on "Real"
- Justin Ogden – additional Vocals on "Bleeding in the Blur"
- Jeremy Tingle – additional vocals on "Kill the Creator" and "No One Is Untouchable"

Production

- Kurt Ballou – producer, engineer, mixing
- Will Yip – producer, engineer, mixing
- Vlado Meller – mastering engineer
- Kimi Hanauer – artwork, layout, photography
- The Kliq – A&R
- Arthur Rizk – additional recording
- Matt Very – additional recording
- Robert Cheeseman – assistant engineer
- Jami Morgan – art direction
- Jimmy Fontaine – band photography

Charts

Chart (2017)	Peak position
US <u>Top Album Sales</u> (<i>Billboard</i>) ^[20]	62
US <u>Top Hard Rock Albums</u> (<i>Billboard</i>) ^[21]	4
US <u>Top Rock Albums</u> (<i>Billboard</i>) ^[22]	15
US <u>Top Tastemaker Albums</u> (<i>Billboard</i>) ^[23]	7
US <u>Vinyl Albums</u> (<i>Billboard</i>) ^[24]	12

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External links

- *Forever (Code Orange album)* (<https://www.discogs.com/master/1116501>) at *Discogs* (list of releases)
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This page was last edited on 12 February 2018, at 20:43.

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