

Christian Metal: History, Ideology, Scene (Bloomsbury Studies in Religion and Popular Music)

By Marcus Moberg

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Christian metal has always defined itself in contrast to its non-Christian, secular counterpart, yet it stands out from nearly all other forms of contemporary Christian music through its unreserved use of metal's main musical, visual, and aesthetic traits. Christian metal is a rare example of a direct combination between evangelical Christianity and an aggressive and highly controversial form of popular music and its culture.

Christian Metal: History, Ideology, Scene is the first full exploration of the phenomenon of Christian metal music, its history, main characteristics, development, diversification, and key ideological traits from its formative years in the early 1980s to the present day. Marcus Moberg situates it in a wider international evangelical cultural environment, accounts for its diffusion on a transnational scale, and explores what religious meanings and functions Christian metal holds for its own musicians and followers. Engaging with wider debates on religion, media and popular culture, *Christian Metal: History, Ideology and Scene* is a much-needed resource in the study of religion and popular music.

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Christian Metal: History, Ideology, Scene (Bloomsbury Studies in Religion and Popular Music) By Marcus Moberg Bibliography

- Rank: #2062863 in Books
- Brand: Bloomsbury Academic
- Published on: 2015-04-23
- Released on: 2015-04-23
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: .36" h x .64" w x 6.34" l, .75 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 200 pages

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Editorial Review

Review
“For his text *Christian Metal: History, Ideology, Scene*, Marcus Moberg has a hard row to hoe, because of the obscurity of Christian metal, and the minimal respect the genre receives, but it's to his credit that he scours the world and the internet in search of this disrespected, neglected musical style. ... *Christian Metal* is an interesting and necessary look into a musical scene that has been ignored, misunderstood, and misaligned. Kudos to Moberg for undertaking what surely was a daunting task, resulting in a fascinating document about the history and culture of Christian Metal.” ?Joseph Kyle, *The Recoup*

About the Author
Marcus Moberg is a senior researcher and formerly held the position of Academy of Finland Postdoctoral Researcher in Comparative Religion at Abo Akademi University in Turku, Finland. His research interests include the sociology of religion, religion and consumer culture, and religion, media and culture studies. He has published widely on Christian metal and contemporary intersections of religion, media and popular culture.

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