

When a band and their long-time frontman part ways, the group's future is not always certain. Fortunately enough, Neue Deutsche Härte pioneers (a proud but well-deserved title) from **Oomph!** have put an end to the long wait, making an official announcement in June. The band has shared the release date of their newest album, unveiling the name of their new frontman as well.

Daniel Schulz (better known as **Der Schulz** of **Unzucht**) took on the vocal duties - and did that in style. From the energetic refrains and exclamations through lower vocal registers to dramatic and more sinister parts alike, the singer has stood up to this difficult task and fit perfectly into **Oomph's** music, which is sometimes just as bizarre as it is intriguing. But let us start from the beginning...

Once again, the German band brought forth a seemingly twisted, even insane, genre combination - and that's for the better, because this is what they do best. After all it is thanks to their signature sound that **Oomph** have worked out even if not the striking popularity that sells out stadium shows, then for sure recognition in the alternative music circle. The unmistakable sound of NDH, industrial grandeur, alternative rock catchiness and the obligatory synthesiser parts – all of this, and much more, can be found here.

Even though the catchy (and sometimes almost danceable) first single **Wem die Stunde Schlägt** could make some people jump to the conclusion that **Oomph** has shifted to a more radio-friendly style, the listeners really shouldn't worry about this after having listened to the whole album.

The band definitely hasn't turned towards the mainstream, and the marching tempo of title track **Richter und Henker** or rock-like heaviness on **Schrei Nur Schrei** with its powerful bass alone are enough to prove this. Crushing, industrial sound finds its place right next to more melodic songs, examples of which include the synthesiser-driven **Nur Ein Mensch** with its anti-war message or the electrifying **Soll Das Liebe Sein**. The latter one is so dynamic that it fully deserves to become a thrilling concert opener – and what's just as important, it doesn't lack choruses that are perfect to chant from the stage. The song is more than sure to gain recognition as a true industrial banger it is. And let's be honest, this is exactly the kind of music that should make the listener want to move to the rhythm and even dance.

There's more to it than just the industrial/tanz metal vibe, though. On **Richter und Henker**, this intriguing combination joined by a dissonance-filled electronics, and **Nichts Wird Mehr Gut** is a shining example of it, together with **Sag Jetzt Einfach Nichts** which is enhanced with hypnotising keyboards. This kind of dramatism and keyboard parts make **Oomph** sound downright majestic, at times bordering on epic and kitschy. Still, the band doesn't go over the top even for a moment and avoids exaggeration. **Wo die Angst Gewinnt** and **All Die Jahre**, even though they might not be as punchy and powerful as the previous tracks, definitely aren't just fillers on this album.

Right after those songs, we can hear the catchy **Wut**, where the guest vocalist is none other than the iconic **Joachim Witt**, as well as the ending piece **Ein Kleines Bisschen Glück**. The pulsating, suspenseful synthesisers work wonders on the album's final track, especially when combined with deep, harsh vocals from **Daniel Schulz**. One could say that **Oomph** left the best for the last, but truth be told, it's really difficult to choose one's favourite from so many songs that are just as well-written.

Of course it's more than sure that some will say how "this is not Oomph without Dero". It's impossible to release an album and not receive a single negative opinion, but in this case, let me be a voice of praise.

In this case, the final rating is more than well-deserved simply because... **Oomph** is still around, alive and kicking. After all, there are bands that would end it all after being active in the scene for over thirty years and parting ways with a long-time vocalist.

Fortunately, this was not the case with Oomph, and the legends of NDH have returned with another gem in their discography.

Rating: 9/10