

amo

Album by Bring Me the Horizon

Album Review by Justin Capeau

About The Band

Bring Me the Horizon is a rock/metal band from South Yorkshire. The group was formed in 2004 and consists of vocalist Oliver Sykes, guitarist Lee Malia, bassist Matt Kean, drummer Matt Nicholls and keyboardist Jordan Fish. The founding members all came from very diverse musical backgrounds including metal, rock, punk and hardcore. The band's name had come from a line in *The Pirates of The Caribbean*. The original line is said by Captain Jack Sparrow; "Now, bring me that horizon."



The band's early style of music was primarily described as deathcore. Their early tracks feature loud screeching instruments and screaming vocals. They later evolved their sound to a more electric style of metal. By their fifth album, *That's the Spirit*, they were beginning to sound more like an alternative rock band. On their sixth album, *amo*, Bring Me the Horizon explores many new genres including hip-hop, pop and electronic.





In January 2005 a newly formed record company, Thirty Days of Night Records, released an EP with Bring Me the Horizon titled *What the Edge of Your Seat was Made For*. Because of this album, a UK label called Visible Noise noticed the band and signed them on for a four album deal. Bring Me the Horizon released these four albums and have since released two more with the same studio.

About *amo*

amo is the sixth album released by Bring Me the Horizon. The album came out on January 25th 2019. The promotion of this album was very interesting. In August, 2018 the band released the first single for the album, “MANTRA”. After that, lines from the song such as “do you want to start a cult with me” were placed on billboards throughout the UK. A website was launched titled joinmantra.org which featured a phone number you could call and would respond with various audio quotes from the song. The album name, *amo* comes from the Portuguese word for “I Love”. This name is very fitting as most songs on this album are themed around love and explore all of its different sides. All of the songs on this album are written in lowercase, with the exception of “MANTRA”



This album is a departure from Bring Me the Horizon's older sound. This album explores many different genres the band has yet to touch before its release, such as electronic, pop and even hip-hop. The album features a variety of different artists as well. *amo* received very positive reviews from critics. All Music's review of the album states, "*amo* is a genre-bending thrill ride that marks a brand new era for the band." The album debuted at number one on the UK Rock charts.

The Tracks

"MANTRA"

"Mantra" is the second song on *amo*. "Mantra" is the only song on the album written in all capital letters. The song opens with an epic hard rock guitar riff and has a fast paced tempo and beat throughout the song. "Mantra" is a rock song with an infectious chorus and bridge. The song is about comparing a relationship to a cult. This is because you have to follow them unconditionally, like a cult leader, even if you start thinking that stuff they are doing is a bit weird. This song is one of my favourites on the album, however I feel the lyrics could go more in depth since the theme of the song is very interesting. I would give it a **10/10**.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAXg78MKJcM>

“nihilist blues”

“nihilist blues” is the third song on *amo*. This song features a very surreal beat and a synthesizer backing the track. The song features pop artist Grimes, who does a fantastic job on the song’s bridge and backup vocals. “nihilist blues” is a pop song that makes you feel like you are at a rave. The song is about two people in a seemingly good relationship who both have very pessimistic views on the situation. “nihilist blues” has received amazing reviews and is referred to as one of the best songs on the album. However, in my opinion I think it is okay, but not fantastic. Therefore I would give it a **5/10**.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iwzfR7-33Wc>



“wonderful life”

“wonderful life” is the fifth song on *amo*. This song is a hard wrong song and has a booming guitar and very loud chorus. The song features Cradle of Filth singer Dani Filth. Dani’s voice is so similar to Oliver’s that it is hard to tell which one of them is singing what, but I believe he sings the bridge. This song is about growing old and realizing how the little things in life are what make it special, and how things that once used to bother you won’t matter anymore once you are old. This song is another one of my favourites from the album. The theme of the song is very interesting and the chorus always gets me singing along. The only thing I don’t like about this song is the slower opening but that is just personal preference. I would give this song a **9/10**.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hoDwVy6IQ4>

“medicine”

“medicine” is the seventh song on *amo*. The song is a pop rock beat with a very groovy drum beat. This song is definitely one of the most pop sounding songs on this album. The song features a synthesizer quietly lining the back of the verses and coming out very loud in the chorus. This song is about people who are abusive and negative and how removing them from your life is ultimately a good idea. The opening line to the song outlines this theme perfectly, “Some people are a lot like clouds, because life is so much better when they are gone.” I like the theme of this song because it is easy for me to relate to. However, I feel like the song does not have as much depth as some of the other ones on the album. The sound of the sound is amazing the first few listens but it gets old as most pop songs do. I would give “medicine” a **6/10**.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MocF43ncu8I>

“sugar honey ice & tea”

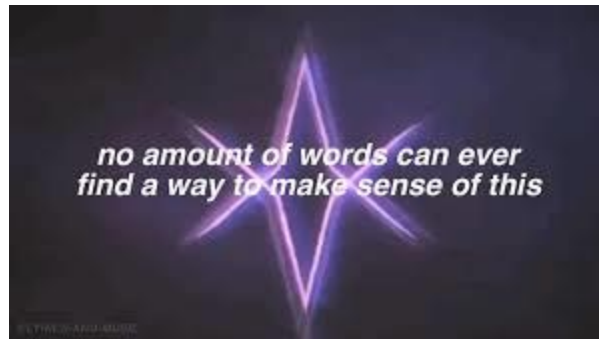
“sugar honey ice & tea” is the eighth song on *amo*. This song is a pop rock song with a very infectious synthesizer beat and hard guitar riff. The song is very catchy and the verses sound fantastic. The chorus is very ‘in your face’ and I like that aspect of it, but the lyrics are a little bit repetitive and annoying. The song is about being lied to by someone you trust. The song describes the hopelessness you may feel trying to make a connection with someone who is full of ‘Sugar, Honey, Ice and Tea’. I love the sound of this song, but the lyrics bring it down a little bit for me. For that reason, I would give “sugar honey ice & tea” a **7/10**.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ULj6eH5YfAw>

“mother tongue”

“mother tongue” is the eleventh song on *amo*. This song sounds a lot like a pop song with a few rock elements sprinkled into it. This is definitely the most melodic song on the album, with very nice piano riffs and a very catchy drum beat. This song also features synthesizers right before the chorus. The song is about not being able to describe love using words. It is definitely the most cheesy song on the album and the bridge is a little too cheesy. However, despite being a pop song and not being very deep, it sounds very nice. I would give “mother tongue” a **4/10**.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-aC_TSkGvPw



“heavy metal”

“heavy metal” is the twelfth song on *amo*. This song sounds amazing. It features a hard rock beat with a little bit of hip hop sound mixed into it. The synthesizer in the sound sounds like an alarm at some kind of facility and it really adds a sense of urgency to the song. This song features beat boxer Rahzel, who beat boxes for the song bridges. While I think this is an interesting idea, I feel like this part of the song is kind of gimmicky and ruins it in my opinion. Despite this the song is still fantastic and ends with an epic screaming vocal. “heavy metal” is about the criticism Bring Me the Horizon have received for making songs that aren’t heavy metal. This song is the band’s way of acknowledging the ‘haters’ and telling them they don’t care what they say. I would give this song an **8/10**.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_bvBC1mcyB0

Final Review

amo is an awesome album by Bring Me the Horizon. They divert away from their heavy metal roots perfectly and I look forward to what's next in store for the band. The album features a multitude of songs from pop to rock to even hip hop. There is something in this album for everyone. The songs all have a very interesting meaning and an amazing sound. Even some of the songs that are only there as filler sound good and give the album a very surreal feeling. In conclusion, I would give this album an **8/10**. Some of the songs on this album can fall short such as "mother tongue" but a majority of the songs on this album are absolutely fantastic.

