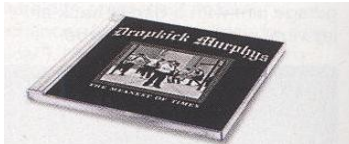


DRUM!

NOVEMBER 2007

DRUM PICKS



Dropkick Murphys

The Meanest Of Times BORN & BRED

MUSIC

Boston's true bluebloods have lost none of their glorious fury on their sixth studio CD. Their formula is unchanged: About 40 percent of their stuff has a Celtic air, in myth-spinning lyrics about "our brothers in the ground," long unison melodic instrumental passages, and occasional bits of pipe and whistle. The rest is raw punk, unapologetic and irresistible.

DRUMMING

Matt Kelly epitomizes these two ingredients of the Murphy sound on "The State Of Massachusetts," where he segues smoothly from drum corps precision into a kind of taut, violent ecstasy, and the ex-

PHOTO BY LARS KRUGER

hilarating freedom of his fills on "Never Forget."

VERDICT

If you've only got time for one drum lick, cue up the last seconds of "Surrender." As much as anything Kelly has ever pounded into posterity, this amazing flourish sets the standard for drummers for whom passion, power, and chops are all parts of the same picture.



PHOTO BY ROBERT FERACIO

Dropkick Murphys