

# HARDNEWS

Page twelve

## HARD MUSIC CABINET

WHAT HM READERS LIKE IN MUSIC TODAY

**01** Headbangers and moshers alike, get ready, Tooth & Nail has just signed one of the heaviest (and in my opinion, one of the best) bands in awhile! They go by the name of **Sent By Ravens**, stemming from the biblical story of the prophet Elijah being fed by ravens in the wilderness. Now I'm not going to lie, when I first heard their name, I doubted their greatness, but my skepticism quickly turned to sheer amazement and awe after I heard the first chords in their song "Trailer vs. Tornado." When the song begins, the guitarists play a breakdown that drags you in right away. As the song continues, it makes it very hard to turn your ears away. By the time the song concludes you will be in a state of shock due to the raw talent of these young men. For a heavy band, however, they have little to no screaming. But before you headbangers and moshers frown upon them and flip the page, Sent By Ravens' lead singer **Zach Riner**'s beautiful melodic voice will lure you in and add a wonderful twist to hard rock as we know it! With meaningful lyrics and a few breakdowns thrown into the mix, there is absolutely no reason for you not to check them out!

**02** When it comes to music, I'm lucky. Or should I say blessed? You see, I get to listen to some great stuff. Not only does the music sound great, but there is even the benefit of lyrics that speak to the soul. Lyrics that help keep me on the straight path. Lyrics that remind me of what is important in this life. Lyrics that help me keep focused on the true God. All this without compromising on the music that really gets me going. Just this week the **77s** reminded me that I follow a "different kind of light." **Apostle** revved me up with "Resurrection Dance" by reminding me the price Christ paid for us and there will be a day "when the saints of God shall be carried away." And **Grave Robber**, in their humorous unique way indicating that being possessed is not a bad thing, when it is the Spirit of God that does the dwelling. I've heard the arguments that Christians make bad art. The artists these folks listen to cannot be the same Christian artists I listen to. Because the Christian music I listen to is not bad art. It is art at its best. Art that is a blessing. We serve a God that cares about art. He cares enough to call folks to make some of this great stuff so that folks like me can be blessed. If you want some of this too, then run to your local Christian store that stocks some of this great art. Or run to your computer to obtain it from your favorite music source. Whatever sources you use doesn't matter, just get it. And be blessed.

**03** Showbread's latest, *The Fear of God*, has been spinning on my iPod ever since it released, and every new play reminds me just how great music outside the box can be. There are few common musical motifs in Idaho – just make it good, make it unique, and make it memorable, and we'll like it. Showbread did just that. **U2** has been doing just that for decades, and their greatness is not lost on Idaho music lovers. U2's *No Line on the Horizon*, released in February, still holds the No. 1 spot on the local record store's best seller list, and it might stay there until the megaband pumps out another release. **Family Force Five** has a ways to go before it builds anywhere near the street cred of U2, but the crunk rock/dance pop boys have Idahoans buzzing nonetheless. Regardless of the infrequency of their visits, Family Force Five is a fave of junior high beatniks and hip twentysomethings alike.

**04** There are two bands in the Southeast that have grabbed my attention as of late, **Nine Lashes** and **Cool Reign**. I have seen both bands play twice and each time their performance and stage presence improved greatly. I saw them both at a benefit concert for a local nonprofit organization in Gardendale, AL. **Cool Reign** has a rock/blues type vibe to them. Their guitarist is extremely talented and he does not stand still. He made me tired just watching him jump around while shredding. They have gone through some member changes since the first time I saw them but they still had the same passion and energy. If you enjoy rock music with a blues influence, you should check them out here [myspace.com/coolreign]. **Nine Lashes** plays an aggressive rock style reminiscent of Stavesacre or Pillar. The first time I saw them live they played an awesome show, but their stage presence needed some work. I saw them again one year later and was blown away. They moved all around the stage and pumped up the crowd. It is really cool to see a band grow so much in such a short amount of time. I talked to several of the members after the show and was encouraged by their openness. This band is not after the "Rockstar" status at all. If you are looking for a hard-hitting rock band, then check out Nine Lashes [myspace.com/ninelashes].



01



02



03



04

## News bullets

**For Today** is heading out on tour with Emmure, Stick To Your Guns, Evergreen Terrace and Oceano for the *Hard Knock Life Tour* this fall. The band will also be jumping over to Australia for a week's worth of tour dates there.

**Seabird** will return to the studio this fall for its sophomore release, in stores December 2009. It'll feature production by Paul Moak (Mat Kearney, Sixpence None The Richer) and Matt Hales from Aqualung. Seabird will debut music from its forthcoming record on a tour with David Crowder Band beginning Oct. 1 in San Antonio. "I've never been as excited to be back in the studio as I am right now, says Seabird frontman **Aaron Morgan**. "To be honest, I was a little worried that we wouldn't find songs that were as exciting as our debut album. I now believe with everything in me that this record is a natural progression to a more moving experience than anything we've recorded to date."

**David Crowder Band** release its fifth studio album on September 22, the ambient and ethereal *Church Music* on sixstepsrecords/Sparrow Records.

**August Burns Red** have debuted the video for "Meddler," on the band's MySpace page.

**Family Force 5** go out on their own *Dance Rawr Dance 3 Tour*. Starting in mid-September, the band will set out on the road with support acts, Breathe Carolina, Cash Cash, Queens Club and iRival.

**Skillet's** new *Awake and Alive Tour* will stretch from September to December.

**The Glorious Unseen** has just completed recording their sophomore album on BEC Recordings, *The Hope that Lies in You*, releasing on August 25th.

**Eric Collins (Denison Marr / The Dark Romantics)** has been working on a new solo project which he is calling, *Mrenc*. The indie pop sound is akin to Spoon, Peter Bjorn & John, Cold War Kids, etc. [myspace/mrenc]