

SEVENCHURCH

Right now many people are wondering where underground metal will head next - I mean speed/thrash eventually burnt out in the late '80's and the same fate is inevitable for death metal one day. Some think industrial will be the next big thing. Others though are forecasting a return to the origins of heavy metal, the classical heaviness of pioneers like BLACK SABBATH and the N.W.O.B.H.M. combined with more contemporary sounds. This forecast can already be well evidenced in recent albums from CATHEDRAL, TIAMAT, SOLITUDE AETURNIS, STILLBORN, CONFESSOR and THY GRIEF ETERNAL. ...add to this growing list Oxford band SEVENCHURCH. Call it doom, call it just plain heavy metal, call it what you like...the sound is slow, oppressive, rich in texture and about as mind-numbingly heavy as you can get.

SEVENCHURCH are label-less at this stage but must surely be on the verge of a deal in the wake of their awesome '92 demo "Nefarious". Containing two songs, both clocking in at over 8 1/2 minutes, it is classic doom; balancing heaviness and a sense of dark foreboding with poetic lyrics and mesmerizing melodies. It is not, however, overly derivative or clichéd - take for example the vocal style of eccentric front man Martin Spear (ex-MADAMADAM). His voice is totally unique and quite unsettling. I must admit it took me a while to get used to him but, as with CATHEDRAL's Lee Dorrian, this initial scepticism is soon won over. He is backed by some effective deathly vocals from bass player "Ollie" who is also responsible for the highly literate lyrics of the two tracks, "Circus Divine" and "Twilight Of Evergreen".

SEVENCHURCH were formed in early 1990 by highly respected Oxford lead guitarist David Smart. He was joined by Ollie (bass/vocals), Dave Capel (rhythm guitar), and Grahaeme Bastable (drums). The original four-piece line-up SEVENCHURCH fell into place in the English spring of 1991. They made their live debut in support of MADAMADAM on the 12th of August. Ironically MADAMADAM broke up soon after and singer Martin made the move to SEVENCHURCH because Ollie had grown uncomfortable with handling both bass and vocal duties. The new five piece SEVENCHURCH line-up

15 CHESSON ST, ALFRED COVE, PERTH
6154, AUSTRALIA, EARTH, MILKY WAY

made their debut in fine style supporting deathgrind "Gods" CARCASS in a gig on the 6th of December 1991.

The new year saw things start to happen for the band with the release of the "Nefarious" demo to broad critical acclaim in both underground and mainstream press. METAL FORCES' Malcolm Dome had this to say in the March '92 issue; "...the best demo I've heard in ages...a true discovery. Someone should sign them up right away and get them working on a full album. I cannot recommend this tape highly enough". Never has a magazine writer spoken truer words! Any self-respecting fan of bands like SAINT VITUS and COVEN should seek out "Nefarious" without delay. Even the BBC were impressed with it, playing all 9 minutes 22 seconds of "Circus Divine" on their "Friday Rock Show".

So now you're wondering how to obtain this minor masterpiece, right? Well, just send a money order or bank draft for £5.00 (made payable to Paul Oliver) to the address shown below. It has a highly professional sound and packaging complete with colour cover and lyrics. One of the English labels like RISE ABOVE or EARACHE are bound to snatch SEVENCHURCH up soon so grab a copy before they become rich and famous...well, at least famous.

For more information contact:
83 Hurst Rise Road, Botley, Oxford OX2 9HF
Telephone David Smart on 0865-725221



ROTTING WAYS 95 Northway Mawr Road Bridgend, S. Wales CF31 3NS

Sevenchurch "Nefarious"

This is another great demo tape, this time at the other end of the spectrum. You may have heard of the singer, Martin Spear from another UK band Madamadam who were allegedly of an Anthrax/Madonna influence (Phew! Sure am glad I didn't check them out!) whom he quit not so long ago for this classic doom outfit.

You get two tracks on "Nefarious": their debut demo, "Only two?" I hear you cry.

Yes, just the two but if I were to tell you that the demo is 19 or so minutes long, you quickly get the message! The tracks are "Circus Divine" and the better of the two being "Twilight Of Evergreen" which has an eerie little acoustic piece in it. As far as doom vocals go, you can't just say

"Yeah, they've got your typical doom vocals" because I can't describe them. Are they vocals like My Dying Bride's or like Solitude Aeternus? Well in this case, the vocals are mellow than a lot of bands with one or two (and I mean one or two) short bursts of the death metal vocals here and there. This is really good stuff, the demo costs £3 but this is mainly due to cover the costs of printing glossy, colour inlay cards and printed tapes etc. You can contact Sevenchurch at: Sevenchurch, 83 Hurst Rise Rd, Botley, Oxford, OX2 9HF, England.

PARASITE

969 High Road, Chadwell Heath
Romford, Essex RM6 4HB

SEVENCHURCH
Nefarious

Are these guys, serious? This two track demo, is one of the funniest things I've heard in years.

The vocal performance, on the track 'Circus Divine', is hysterically bad. The 'deep and meaningful' lyrics, being chanted nursery rhyme style.

The second track 'Twilight Of Evergreen' is no better, with it's pompous, overblown lyrics, which have been done a million times before. The vocal performance, owes a lot to SPINAL TAP, and both tracks has music that plods along very, very slowly and aimlessly.

I can't believe, that I just wasted eighteen minutes, of my life, listening to this crap-so you have been warned.

BAD NEWS were never this comical.

CONTACT 83 Hurst Rise Road, Botley, Oxford, OX2 9HF.

JOHN ALEY

CRAWLING CHAOS Maes-Y-Coed Road, Maes-Y-Coed Pontypridd, S. Wales CF37 1HZ

SEVENCHURCH HAVE BEEN BEING EARLY "90 AND ARE DEFINITELY ONE OF THE BEST BANDS THE UK HAVE THROWN UP(MAARGHH!!!) IN RECENT YEARS(SORRY FOR THE FEEBLE ATTEMPT AT HUMOUR!). THEIR DEBUT DEMO IS ONE OF THE GREATEST DOOM METAL DEMOS I'VE EVER HEARD. WILL '92 BE THE YEAR OF SEVENCHURCH???? I CERTAINLY HOPE SO...THIS INTERVIEW IS WITH VOCALIST MARTIN SPEAR.

Q. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MUSICAL STYLE AND WHAT INFLUENCES YOU THE MOST ARE LYRICS IMPORTANT TO YOU?

We describe the SEVENCHURCH sound as "magnificent morose malevolence". Lead guitarist David Smart writes all of the music and influences come from far and wide. Much of what he writes is inspired by well executed heavy atmospheric films such as Eraserhead, and well executed heavy atmospheric music from the likes of BLACK SABBATH, MERCIFUL FATE, JUDAS PRIEST, LYNYRD SKYNYRD and THE ALMOND BROTHERS. Bass player Ollie has written all their lyrics to date and they are mainly based on personal experience stories which are very important to him. His influences range from anything from Anne Rice Novels (Yes, Well good stuff-Ed) to well constructed hymns! Q. YOU OBVIOUSLY TAKE A LONG TIME CONSTRUCTING YOUR SONGS. DO YOU HAVE ANY USUAL SONG-WRITING PROCESS?

There is nothing particularly unusual about the SEVENCHURCH song writing process. The music always comes first-taking however long it takes. No song is ever planned to last longer than 5 minutes, it's just the way it happens.

Q. HAVE YOU RECEIVED ANY LABEL INTEREST? WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE RECORDING PLANS?

After the recent exposure on "The Friday Rock Show" BBC RADIO ONE, coupled with the glowing demo review in METAL FORCES, the record companies are beginning to take notice. Future recording plans are therefore dependent on the outcome of this record company interest.

Q. DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF A LIVE BAND OR ARE YOU MORE SUITED TO A STUDIO ENVIRONMENT?

Playing live is an extremely enjoyable experience, being in the studio is an extremely enjoyable experience. (That's an extremely annoying answer-Ed).

Q. WOULD YOU EVER ENLIST A KEYBOARD PLAYER TO FINISH YOUR SOUNDS?

No plans at the moment to recruit a keyboard player. But that is not to say that we would not plan to add one on the occasion if the addition did not clutter our sound.

Q. WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE/LEAST FAVOURITE UK UNDERGROUND BAND AT THE MOMENT?

Because we are all relatively new to the UK underground scene we honestly don't have a favourite/least favourite underground band! I think we should all agree that we are all relatively new to the UK underground scene we honestly don't have a favourite/least favourite underground band!

Q. WHAT QUESTION WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO BE ASKED AND HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER IT?

What was the first record that each band member put on their turntable yesterday evening (29/3/92)?

David Smart-Lead Guitar:Electric Barnyard by KENTUCKY HEADHUNTERS;

Dave Capel-Rhythm Guitar:Necrotism Descending the Insalubrious by CARCASS;

Ollie-Bass.The entire collection of DOGS D'AMOUR B-sides;

Grahaeme Bastable-Drums:Painkiller by JUDAS PRIEST;

Martin Spear-Lead Vocals:Paul's Boutique by BEASTIE BOYS.

SEVENCHURCH are a truly excellent doom band from the fetid depths of Oxford, and with this incredible offering have earned themselves a well deserved place up there with their meloncholy contemporaries CATHEDRAL and WINTER. Although the tape contains only two tracks, the total running time almost reaches twenty minutes, both songs overflowing with melodramatic pomposity and morbid orchestration that sets them apart from the aforementioned bands, but also draws on them for musical inspiration, especially in the unique style of doom metal, leaving a lasting impression with each twist and turn of his individual vocals. If you enjoy music with style and personality then I unreservedly recommend this band to you. You can get a copy for £3 from SEVENCHURCH, 83 HURST RISE ROAD, BOTLEY, OXFORD OX2 9HF, UK.

REVIEW OF SEVENCHURCH NEFARIOUS DEMO 1 '91

