

Ballistic Test Zine is brought to you by



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Contributors This Issue: Richard Maaranen (RM), Neal Piwowarski (NP), NecRoSarX (NX)

Welcome to the re-launch of Ballistic Test Zine. While Automata print magazine number 11 was in the planning stages ever since number 10 was released, it looked increasingly frozen in its development for a number of different reasons. As someone who was a regular contributor to Automata and an avid fan of the Christian electronic underground scene for over ten years now, I have taken it upon myself with help of a couple others, to organize some of that content into a new digital magazine format which you see here.

The scope of BTZ will be the same as Automata, that is we will continue to limit our coverage to music in such underground electronic genres as industrial, EBM, gothic, darkwave and synthpop that are often off-the-radar in other Christian music publications. A new feature I have included here is a simple overall rating of each album that is reviewed on a scale of 1 to 10 as sometimes the degree to which the reviewer enjoys the album is not clear.

The tentative plan is to write up a new free BTZ issue every two months if we can as the quantity and quality of new material coming out lately in cyberspace is quite encouraging. There is no BTZ compilation CD accompanying this issue as there was with Automata but if you head to the Flaming Fish Music website and look under the releases section you'll find free albums for download in mp3 and flac formats including a great new industrial music compilation called "Defib Sternum". If you have any comments, suggestions or criticism about this new endeavor I invite you to send me an email.

➤ Richard Maaranen

## &lt; - NEW BAND LINKS LIST -&gt;

These are the highlights of bands/music artists that are 'new' to us, meaning they have come to our attention recently and are not necessarily neophytes. Note that not all of them are overtly Christian or even have ministry or worship as a purpose of their music, they may be instrumental or have member(s) that at one time have been part of bands we have previously covered. Use your own discretion. We have added the following bands/artists to the links section of the Flaming Fish Music website at <http://www.flamingfish.com>

Thanks to Balaam's Miracle for helping us spot some of them, his website is another great resource at <http://www.balaamsmiracle.com/>

If you find anything that is missing, needs to be corrected or should be considered for removal from our directory send an email to [ballistictest@rogers.com](mailto:ballistictest@rogers.com)

**INDUSTRIAL / EBM**

**Project 7** – EBM / futurepop in the vein of VNV Nation's instrumental dance tracks  
<http://www.myspace.com/godproject7>

**Antecide** – warning: extreme death electro and ambient from Australia, brutal distorted vocals yet catchy rhythms  
<http://www.myspace.com/antecide>

**Cupressaceae** – extreme death electro, another band to scare the parents with  
<http://www.myspace.com/cupressaceae>

**Cartridges for Weapons** - hard-hitting danceable futuristic industrial/EBM, no vocals were heard in samples, for fans of Vovox and Sheltershed  
<http://www.myspace.com/cartridgesforweapons>

**How to Avoid Art** – the song "Repaid" has a 90s electro industrial cyberpunk feel similar in part to X Marks the Pedwalk or Terminal Power Company  
<http://www.myspace.com/howtoavoidart>

**Red+Test** - formed in 2002 in the vein of late 80's/early 90's industrial music such as Abscess, Metallo & The Fixer, Benestrophe and Second Disease, Red+Test is an audio analysis of the catastrophic events taking place around the world, from war, to poverty and hunger. Purposefully, the band refrains from political commentary to focus on the humanity lost in these events, and the human factor.  
<http://www.myspace.com/redtest>

**INDUSTRIAL ROCK / METAL**

**Bruised** - touted as an industrial rock supergroup crossover from other genres with Jesse Sprinkle as one key member. None of the demo samples on myspace have vocals yet unfortunately.  
<http://www.myspace.com/bruisedandbeaten>

**Flashline Split** - was briefly on myspace then disappeared, initial taste was pretty good industrial metal, let us know if you find anything we can link to for them

**Time's Arrow** - industrial rock with unique vocals that sounds inspired by Zeromancer and Celldweller  
<http://www.myspace.com/timesarrow>

**Remorse Code** - intense techno industrial metal similar to Voxis, features Bret of Voxis  
<http://www.myspace.com/remorsecode>

**Commission** - synthpop/industrial rock by Matthew and Josh of Audio Paradox, successor to the now defunct Outsource  
<http://www.myspace.com/missioncommission>

## GOTHIC

**White Raven** – downcast slower electro goth/darkwave, another alias of Othniel and Naked Fish  
<http://www.myspace.com/raven2000>

**All is Vanity** – creepy goth rock / death rock project by an ex-member of such bands as Redlip Stick Death, Graveyard Bats and Saints of Sorrow  
<http://www.myspace.com/franksenkasolo>

**My Darkest Time** - orchestral goth rock similar to Saviour Machine with female vocals  
<http://www.myspace.com/mydarkesttime>

**Angelcorpus** - operatic male/female goth metal from South America similar to Undish and Necromance  
<http://www.myspace.com/angelcorpus>

**Noverim** - ethereal techno from Macedonia with female soprano vocals like Ever and Lunasect  
<http://www.myspace.com/noverim>

**Euphoreador** - dark acoustic electro lounge, successor to Confession of Faith  
<http://www.garageband.com/artist/euphoreador>

**Paris Oroborus** - danceable industrial EBM with male and female singers, recommended if you like Regenerator and Imperative Reaction  
<http://www.myspace.com/parisoroborus1>

**Sin4sin** - horror shock metal, from two former members of Rackets & Drapes joining up with other artists. First song on myspace is called "Fright Night".  
<http://www.myspace.com/sin4sinmetal>

**Days are Nights** - old school goth / new wave rock from Brazil  
<http://www.myspace.com/daysarenights>

**SYNTHPOP**

**Relesser** – the word is from etymology: of Anglo-French origin, meaning "release", new Autumn's Descent electro rock project

<http://www.myspace.com/relesser>

**Brand New Day** - diverse electronic pop using a mixture of vocalists and producers from around the globe

<http://www.bndmusic.com>

**Eight O'Clock Vendetta** - dark electronic pop, formerly known as EuroVision, a project of Brand New Day

<http://www.electrogarden.com/music/egn/profiles/613/>

**Venus Hum** - female fronted acoustic electro pop

<http://www.myspace.com/venushum>

**Then Comes Friday** - synthpop rock

<http://www.myspace.com/thencomesfriday>

**Upwordspiral** - has a 80's synthpop / new wave rock feel, project by Michael Cruz from The Way Sect Bloom

<http://www.myspace.com/upwordspiral>

**Pool Waitress** - electroclash with a silly edge, side project of Scar Chemik

<http://www.poolwaitress.com/>

**Mercydeep** – self-described as futurepop with influences such as Covertant and Rotersand though this was not clearly evident in a brief samples, perhaps more for the general synthpop crowd

<http://www.cdbaby.com/mercydeep>

**Wounds Will Heal** – synthpop tunes with macabre lyrics, project of Zymotic

<http://myspace.com/woundswillhealmusic>

**ELECTRONICA / TECHNO / TRANCE**

**Tomato Paste** - techno

<http://tomatopastemusic.tripod.com/>

**ColdForge** - freestyle techno and industrial rock, aka Cold Fusion Synthesis

<http://www.myspace.com/coldfusionsynthesis>

**Weather Inside, The** - retro electronica that meshes 80s melodies, atari bits, male/female vocals, and lush orchestral arrangements

<http://www.myspace.com/theweatherinside>

**Hyp0static** - hard techno and trance

<http://www.hyp0static.com/>

**Anonymous** – is the name Bryce Eickholt has assigned to his electro industrial project  
<http://www.myspace.com/anonymoustunes>

**Daivd L Puga** – symphonic electronica  
<http://myspace.com/davidlpuga>

#### **AMBIENT / EXPERIMENTAL**

**White Noise, The** - retro experimental electropop  
<http://www.myspace.com/thewhitenoisemusic>

**The Sound Gallery** - lush ethereal ambient with industrial overtones, beautifully haunting female vocals  
<http://cdbaby.com/cd/soundgallery1>

**Victory Through Surrender** - experimental electronica jazz pop  
<http://cdbaby.com/cd/vtsurrender>

**Phloide** - bizzare art rock industrial experimentalism, check out 2 different albums at cdbaby.com  
<http://cdbaby.com/cd/phloide>

**God Flight** - extreme power electronics/noise, the antithesis of music  
<http://www.myspace.com/godflight>

**S. Zeilenga** - downtempo ambient  
<http://cdbaby.com/cd/szeilenga2>

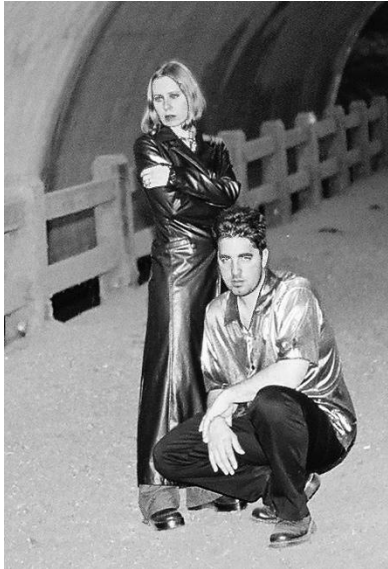
**Beyond our Galaxy** – dream ambient for the vastness of space  
<http://www.myspace.com/beyondourgalaxy>

## Matrix & In-A-Sense Interview

Richard Maaranen, March 2007

[www.myspace.com/matrix12x](http://www.myspace.com/matrix12x)

[www.myspace.com/inasense7](http://www.myspace.com/inasense7)



Matrix is a band with three CD releases so far: "Dreams are Real" back in 1999, "The War is Over" in 2001 and "Deus Lo Volt" in 2006. Plus there is a new side project called In-A-Sense. We only discovered them fairly recently after digging around in the Christian category at cdbaby.com. Their latest album spurred our interest to find out more about this top notch act. I spoke with a key member of the band, John Sepulveda.

**RM - Are there any albums/demos released under another name prior to Matrix that might interest fans or is Matrix your first serious music endeavor?**

I was in a project named NCC, but it was before their first release, so I am not sure how much of my original material remained at the end. But we all influenced each other's writing.

**RM - Where you aware that there was a community that focuses on the subcultures of industrial, futurepop/EBM, gothic and other related genres by Christian artists before we contacted you for an interview?**

No, I was unaware of you guys.

**RM - In our preliminary correspondence you mentioned that you would like to have your music carried in more Christian outlets but it seems that's not the scene you initially were involved with. We have seen the opposite, a band becomes popular in mainstream markets after getting their start in Christian channels only to then disengage or disavow their initial audience. Do you have any thoughts on this?**

I think it's pretty crummy to ditch your original audience, as that is what gave you your start. We love our fans. I am always trying to work to see what different markets will enjoy our music. As Christians, it would only be natural for parts of that to come out in our writing. I think that in some weird way some bands get embarrassed, or think it's not cool to have faith. It's almost countercultural now to believe in God, which is kind of whacky. So in the end it's you that has to live with it.

**RM - In your CD credits, you mention Cesium 137. Do you know each other well? Automata magazine previously interviewed Cesium 137 and parts of your music are similar in sound with the male/female vocals for instance. Also, you have both refrained so far from resorting to profanity and sexual overtones in your lyrics which, the more you think about them, have some spiritual relevance. Is this a conscious decision to write this way?**

I met Isaac a few years back when we played together for the first time in Philly PA. I think we have many of the same interests and

this would tend to come out in the music. He is a talented musician and writer and I think their stuff rocks. We have played many shows together since then.

It's funny, but for the most part I don't see the need for profanity in music, but, heck I curse like a trucker most of the time in conversation, mostly because it adds emphasis. I just think that it does not stand the test of time to have it in your music.

**RM - What was the impetus for the In-A-Sense project? Did you have any fans or music reviewers saying something like "I like your music but only the more melodic, synthpop songs"? Did you want to give people something more accessible under a new name without compromising the electro industrial edge of Matrix?**

I was introduced to Steve Ferraro, and we were discussing music and decided that it would be great fun to have a project together. Steve likes synthpop, I tend to like more Industrial and EBM, so we thought that might be an interesting mix. I noticed we have two distinct sets of fans, those that like our more industrial material and those that like our synthpopier songs. This project enabled us to make more accessible material without alienating our more industrial fans. Steve has loads of great ideas and helps to keep me writing.

**RM - The album "Deus Lo Volt" features the voice of Anina, who is now your wife, more than ever before and she does a great job. Tell us a bit of the progression of her role in the Matrix sound and in your life.**

Initially we had her to backing on some of the earlier material. As time and her skills progressed we had her take a more upfront role. I wanted to change things up a bit for Deus Lo Volt, as having her sing definitely added a

different flavor to the new album. It was one of the ways I tried differentiating us from other bands. I think she has a great voice, especially on tracks like Culture of Shame, where Gary Suarez from Gasr wrote the lyrics.

**RM - Speaking of the song "Culture of Shame", I was wondering what that song was about. My guess is that it takes the viewpoint that there is a loosening of morality in current media and entertainment around the world. In that, immorality (i.e. sex, violence, racism, etc.) is what the masses are consuming and there is no shame about it by those buying or selling it.**

You hit the nail on the head. The lyrics for "Culture of Shame" were expertly written by Gary from Gasr, as he wrote a lot of lyrics for Matrix. As for the lyrics, I mean if you look at our current culture, it is one in which, what was once seen as extreme and immoral is now the norm. Everywhere you look the most perverse things (violence, drugs, prostitution et cetera) are put into the media machine and made commonplace and normal, thus it becomes our Culture of Shame.

**RM - Whats in store for Matrix / In-A-Sense fans in the future? Will you try to do both equally or are you leaning towards only one of them now?**

We may or may not continue Matrix, it really depends on the new synths I am building at home (my main hobby) and if they inspire more industrial music from me, or if they inspire something else. I have been leaning more towards writing new In-A-Sense material and we hope to finish a second album this year. We are also starting a new project that will have more guitars, and I am looking forward to this. I am also looking for any other artists that would like collaborating or swapping remixes currently.... but that's pretty much it.

<- MUSIC REVIEWS ->

**20GOTO10 –  
Elizabeth, Haunted  
by Ghosts**



The sophomore release from Ohio band 20GOTO10 is a collection of mid-to-down tempo dark synth music that is very haunting and contemplative. Usually, when the words 'synth pop' is used to describe a music style, I think of bands like Joy Electric- sugary happy synth pop with an underpinning of melancholy. On Elizabeth, Haunted By Ghosts, from the first track the mood is set, and it's a dark one, which is not necessarily a bad thing. Far from it. Musically, the word 'minimalist' comes to mind, as the songs set an even pace and don't barrage you with massive amounts of synths and instrumentation. Sara Eugene's vocals are a perfect complement to the mysterious and haunting sounds, very beautiful and dark. Lyrically, the songs on the CD are artistically poetic and deep. The production is very good as well. I was pleasantly surprised with this album. It will definitely find play time on my computer, mostly at night.– NX

RATING 7.5/10

**5in1 –  
Sugar Free Gospel**



After the opening track (a recitation of the Lord's Prayer over an ambient background), and a quick sample from the Rocky & Bullwinkle show, 5in1's Sugar Free Gospel delves into an infectious mix of sample-heavy techno and electronica that, for an independently produced release, is of surprisingly high quality. Samples are taken from various sermons, movies and television shows, which accentuate the theme of humanity's need for redemption and salvation through Jesus Christ. Favorite cuts include 'Kinda Scary, Hu?', 'Fine Water', 'Pardon The Stumble' (despite the DC Talk sample), 'Destruction', and the first untitled cut that repeats the word 'Repent'. – NX

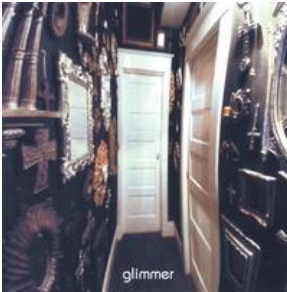
RATING 6.5/10

**Chainsaw Weasel –  
Factor 6**



Prolific electronic musician Tony Vilgate offers up his tenth collection of songs that leans heavily toward the ambient side of things, something he calls on his website 'sci-fi tribal'. After listening to it a couple of times, it certainly is a heady and eclectic mix of electronics, drum beats and various samplings and loops. Track one, 'My Tribal Home', starts off the CD with some atmospheric ambient based upon a tribal drum foundation. The CD consists of instrumental tracks that are mostly a mix of techno beats, dreamy electronic ambient with some minor samples sprinkled in hither and yon. Although this can be classified as mostly electronica, the formula deviates a bit on the title track by using an electric guitar layered upon some heavy drum and bass. Some would use the word 'experimental' as a back-handed description of someone's music. Here, I would use the word as a full complement, as this is a CD that's experimental, yet manages to keep from being a convoluted mess. This is definitely one for the ambient crowd.. – NX

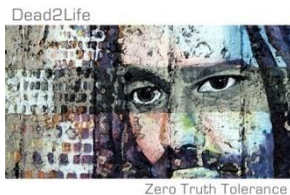
RATING 6/10

**Darkfield  
Illuminator –  
Glimmer**

Nine songs, approximately an hour of music; Darkfield Illuminator's full-length Glimmer is, without a doubt, one of the best CDs I've purchased so far in 2007. The music is guitar-driven and industrial based, but don't brush this off as just another industrial rock band. The guitars and drums are certainly the foundation, with electronic samples and keyboards building upon it. Movie samples can be heard throughout the tracks (at one point, I do believe I detected a clip from Army Of Darkness...neat). The vocal duties alternate between haunting female vocals and harsh industrialized male vocals. Think if Klank took over music for Evanescence, only much more raw and interesting. Lyrically, the songs on Glimmer deal with darkness, hope, anger, betrayal and death from a Christ-centered perspective. This is one of those rare CDs I've enjoyed from beginning to end; a near-perfect mix of dark, haunting gothic tones laced with a jagged industrial edge. Recommended.

– NX

RATING 7.5/10

**Dead 2 Life –  
Zero Truth  
Tolerance**

Australia is a country of some great talents for gothic music – Resurrection Eve, Paradoxx and Virgin Black immediately come to mind. Lesser known is gothic industrial metal hybrid Dead 2 Life. Their "Disconnect" album from 2002 seems to have gone somewhat overlooked and underrated which is a shame. The 13 tracks here on "Zero Truth Tolerance" continue the sound of mixing heavy bombastic guitars (not used constantly though) with techno industrial programming and atmospheric downcast goth rock vocals. Each song though is noticeably different from the last. The song "Mixed Feelings" for instance could be described as StarFlyer 59 with Ashton Nyte of The Awakening as vocalist for its dreamy acoustic lounge shoegazer sound. Another highlight is "Dance Russia Dance" with male/female harmony on the chorus rendition and stirring orchestral arrangements alongside the guitars. Fans of Coriolis, Bridgeshdows and The Awakening who like gothic metal with variety should not pass this one up. – RM

RATING 8.5/10

**Dead Turns Alive  
– Maelstrom**

Review of a  
pre-release

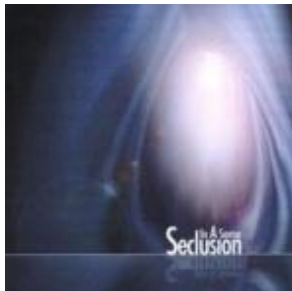
There are similarities between Dead Turns Alive's second album "Maelstrom" and Regenerator's "Soulseeker" from 1997. DTA begins with the song "Whore" while Regenerator's second track is coincidentally "Megawhore" and both versions are candid in their rebuke of evil temptations. If the profanity of Regenerator's version bothers you, the DTA version will also. Fortunately, the rest of the DTA album as with Regenerator, features a more sanitary positive-minded approach to the lyrics presented in a danceable hard industrial EBM style with injections of accessible futurepop melodies. There is a nice variety to the vocals, alternating between English and German, male and female melodic singing, harsh electro distorted scream-whispers and coarse hardcore shouts. Micha discontinues the guitar-driven metal tracks from the "Salvation and Despair" debut giving this sequel a more pure electronic sound but one that is no less as edgy with mechanized textures and stomping clanking beats in the forefront. As good as the first DTA CD if not better, this is a terrific buy for fans of Regenerator, Judean Radiostatic and Autovoice. – RM

RATING 9.0/10

**Fountain of Tears  
– Fate**

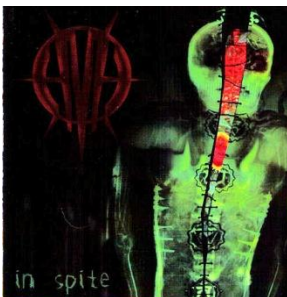
The full-length debut from Fountain of Tears features a sound that draws immediate comparisons to artists like Nightwish and Within Temptation. However, they differentiate themselves from those artists by drawing from progressive metal acts such as Dream Theater for musical inspiration. The band creates an impressive musical backdrop for Vonnie King, whose vocals will appeal to fans of Amy Lee, while retaining their own uniqueness. The solos from guitarist Mike DiDonato give the music its decidedly metal edge without abandoning its progressive roots. Although this CD may not be dark enough to satisfy the nocturnal set, it boasts superb technical musicianship, deeply poetic lyrics and strong vocal performances. A good producer like David Prater and better mixing could help FOT enhance their sound. Surely, they have an album on par with Images and Words waiting to be unleashed. Fate is a strong step in that direction. – NP

RATING 8/10

**In-A-Sense  
– Seclusion**

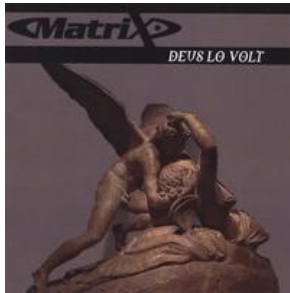
Released around the same time in 2005 as the third Matrix album “Deus Lo Volt”, this new side project by John Sepulveda with Steve Ferraro on vocals seems designed as a vehicle for appealing to a broader futurepop/synthpop audience. While Matrix to date has embraced harsher, aggressive electro industrial dance beats in much of its music, In-A-Sense has a more club-friendly sound and greater consistency in its style. Steve’s voice compared to John on Matrix is pretty similar only made more accessible by being smoother, clearer and always untreated, reminiscent of Seabound or Sero.Overdose to some degree. A couple of songs stand out for being extra catchy and their spiritual relevance - “Ultimate Sacrifice”, “Will You Be There Sometimes?” and “Forgive Me”. On “Ultimate Sacrifice”, the chorus lyrics: “I can see you...changing things in me...why don’t you make this...my ultimate sacrifice...I can feel you....bringing me to my knees...” are particularly memorable. In-A-Sense is in effect, a high-caliber project and just distinct enough from Matrix to warrant its own acquisition. – RM

RATING 8.4/10

**ManufraQture  
- In Spite**

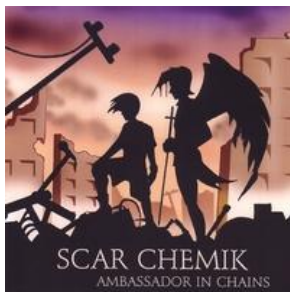
ManufraQture’s second album “In Spite” could be described, metaphorically speaking, as the musical manifestation of a schizophrenic beauty and beast complex. Ferocious guitars collide with raging metalcore vocals and mechanized industrial percussion for an all-out animalistic assault on the senses. Skillfully woven into this fabric are numerous threads of sweet vocal and synthesizer melody that leave a lasting imprint on the mind. Highlights include the pop-rock catchy “In Your Eyes” and the spiritual lyrics in “From the Ashes” in which the band is most likely singing about their desire for the second coming of Christ to “wake the dead”. Six of the sixteen tracks here are repeats from their debut “No Rest for the Wicked” album but that is of minor concern since the whole package is lengthy and surpasses the original. While there are stylistic similarities to Argyle Park’s classic yet bleak “Misguided” album, ManufraQture forges its own awesome techno industrial metal hybrid blade in a fiery factory furnace, one that brandishes hope in a battlefield of madness. – RM

RATING 9.2/10

**Matrix –  
Deus Lo Volt**

Parallels between Matrix's third album "Deus Lo Volt" and three other bands – Regenerator, Cesium 137 and Dead Turns Alive came to my mind. Like Regenerator, Matrix features the voices of two intertwined spouses, in the case of John Sepulveda and his girlfriend now wife Anina. Her dark, deceptively sweet voice is on full display in much of the music and there are a few all-too-brief moments of harmony between the two. As for Cesium 137 and Matrix, both have increased the female-voice factor in their own futurepop/EBM music over time and both have clean, spiritually relevant lyrics. In terms of the overall sound though, Matrix is perhaps most similar to Dead Turns Alive by contrasting and blending club-friendly futurepop/EBM songs with more aggressive electro industrial ones. The songs "Turn to Dust" and "Our World Burns" for instance are noisy full-out dancefloor assaults with distorted vocals while "Sacrifice" has a rhythmic clanking, mechanized sound. All of this is done quite well, making "Deus Lo Volt" easily recommendable to fans of any of the aforementioned bands. – RM

RATING 8.4/10

**Scar Chemik –  
Ambassador in  
Chains**

Scar Chemik's earlier demo "Mechanized World" showed promise but suffered from some strange vocals and a misplaced sense of humor. The debut commercial CD release "Ambassador in Chains" is a quantum leap forward that should prove to be widely accessible across the whole synthpop, futurepop, EBM, electro industrial spectrum. Although there are glimpses of harsher industrial and darker gothic tones throughout, it leans heavily on the danceable melodic pop side of things and makes creative use of both retro sounds and futuristic ones. As a result, the album does have the feel of a compilation, albeit one that a dance club DJ could successfully spin from start to finish. Everything about this album is of excellent quality -- the perfected singing both treated by effects and untreated emotion, the synths, the programming, not to mention meaningful, faith relevant lyrics. The songs "Lives are Calling" and "Beside You" for instance are breathtakingly beautiful with the makings of hit singles. Do yourself a favor and buy this amazing CD. – RM

RATING 8.8/10

**Splyntr –  
Noise and  
Brotherhood**

First thing you should know about Splyntr's "Noise and Brotherhood" is that this is not a noise album. What you do get is quite enjoyable danceable industrial techno and old school electro with various distorted vocal textures for most of the songs. The first song, "The Tortured Beginning" sounds like something that Thymikon could have done if he did a second album with its use of solemn monk-like vocalizations, electro beats and distorted yet comprehensible vocals in praise of God's grace. Another highlight is "A Thousand Fists" which injects industrial vocal distortion into a rhythm of hypnotic techno and subdued trance-like synths. On the downside, the CD seems to lose some momentum and focus in the second half. The vocals in "Damaged" for instance come across as a little 'messy' and the song "Acid Flowers" feels a bit under-cooked favoring synths over beats. Things end strongly though with the soothing industrial ambient track "The End". Overall, this is still an above average and pretty original sounding release. – RM

RATING 8/10

**Templar –  
Witch Hunt**

Paradoxx enlists vocalists from several Christian metal bands to create Templar. While the project has been described as goth, one hears only faint echoes of that genre on this EP. While the results are very good from a metal lover's viewpoint, they will likely be unappealing to goth aficionados. While there are occasional flourishes of programming courtesy of static:soul, Templar's overall sound is 1980's-era classic metal. 'Cyclops' particularly sounds like it was torn from one of Poison's songbooks. Perhaps if the band had placed the vocalists in an electronic context ala Argyle Park/ AP2, Templar would be more interesting. However, these songs sound like B-sides from the aforementioned bands rather than true collaborations. This EP is listenable, but lacks freshness and innovation. Paradoxx would do well to either synthesize Templar or abandon it entirely. – NP

RATING 4/10

**Voxis – Darkworld**

This first full-length CD release by Voxis has been anticipated for years. The first appearance of Voxis was 1998's short demo "Lullabies" followed by various compilation spots and high quality remixes of other bands such as Cult of Jester and Torn Skin. The combination of complex, high velocity sci-fi programming, techno beats and driving guitars interspersed with orchestral textures stimulated interest for a CD release primarily among the industrial music crowd. Suffice to say, the superb "Darkworld" debut should quench that thirst. "Razor's Edge" and "Myndhax" are speedy instrumental tracks that would work well in movies like The Matrix and Aeon Flux. Vocals are limited to a couple of tracks with highlights being the aggressive Celldweller-esque track "Misconstrue", the Aleixa-like speed rocker "Glamour is a Calculated Risk" and the ThouShaltNot sounding melodic ballad "The Last". The rest of the CD shows a wide breadth of textures incorporated into the music such as the jazzy funk groove of "The Strip", the rollicking Mariachi guitars of "Coiled" and the dreamy outer space feel of "Shattered". Flawless, entertaining, and invigorating, "Darkworld" by Voxis is a must-have CD. – RM

RATING 10/10

Links to Bands Reviewed in this Issue

**20GOTO10** - <http://www.myspace.com/20goto10>

**5in1** – <http://www.myspace.com/5in1>

**Chainsaw Weasel** - <http://www.myspace.com/djcsaw>

**Darkfield Illuminator** – <http://www.myspace.com/darkfieldilluminator>

**Dead 2 Life** - <http://www.myspace.com/dead2lifemusic>

**Dead Turns Alive** - <http://www.myspace.com/deadturnsalive>

**Fountain of Tears** - <http://www.myspace.com/fountainoftears>

**In-A-Sense** – [www.myspace.com/inasense7](http://www.myspace.com/inasense7)

**Manufrageure** – [www.myspace.com/manufrageure](http://www.myspace.com/manufrageure)

**Matrix** – [www.myspace.com/matrix12x](http://www.myspace.com/matrix12x)

**Scar Chemik** - <http://www.myspace.com/scarchemik>

**Splyntr** – [www.myspace.com/splyntr](http://www.myspace.com/splyntr)

**Templar** – <http://www.myspace.com/templarmuzic>

**Voxis** - <http://cdbaby.com/cd/voxis>



The wiki for industrial, gothic, synthpop and related genres by Christian artists.

[www.automatapeda.com](http://www.automatapeda.com)