

The Sun-Herald

Biloxi, MS

STEMM - CROSSROADS

(Catch 22 Records / MVD Entertainment Group, 2 ½ stars)

This Sept. 13, 2011, CD was hidden amongst a bunch of DVDs, some of which were reviewed. What drew me to it was seeing "Supernaut" among the song titles. ... it's a Black Sabbath ditty from long ago. This is the second album for Stemm (Joe Cafarella/lead vocals & guitar, Alex Scouten/guitar and vocals, Dan Nelligan/drums, Mario Noblio/touring bassist and Mike Hatalak/studio bassist); a hard-working group who plays 150+ dates a year and is featured in MMA telecasts and video games. The guitars are heavy, the double-bass drums are pounding, the vocals are growled; but there's a little bit of melody here.

Highlights of an album I won't be listening to again include slightly melodic singing on "Dead Inside," the intro guitar section of "Smile and Wave" and the aforementioned "Supernaut." Metal fans who don't mind growly vocals, this is a good one for you.

The following is an abridged reprint/reminder about a previously unreleased live album that was released last year.

Read more here: http://www.sunherald.com/2012/01/26/3713592_p2/giants-from-the-past-looking-quizzically.html#storylink=cpy

- Ricky Flake