



## Music: Chainsaw: The Journey Into the Heart of Darkness

### Our Take

Poland's Chainsaw is more than likely a band that not too many American listeners may be familiar with, due to their record label Empire Records having somewhat limited distribution outside of Europe. But now thanks to Metal Mind Productions US audiences are getting their first taste of the band in the form of their sophomore album *The Journey Into the Heart of Darkness*, originally released in 2005. An interesting mix of power metal with hard rock influences, Chainsaw is sure to impress thanks to their often complex ideas.

What makes this album work so well is its seamless mix of power metal with hard rock and an occasional thrash influence. There is always a lot going on in every song, so even if a track may start off sounding like a standard hard rock or thrash track Chainsaw always seems to find a way to spice things up at some point and prove that they're far from your average group. For example, the song "In Flames" sounds like a cross between a power metal and hard rock track, but towards the end adds a progressive rock flair with keyboards suddenly being one of the prominent elements. *The Journey Into the Heart of Darkness* does feel as though it is a little long, but for the most part listeners will find this particular journey very engaging.

The vocals also showcase some interesting ideas. For the majority of the album Chainsaw's vocalist sounds like your standard power metal singer, except for the fact that he often stays in the range of melodic rather than cheesy. The intro track "Bitter Thoughts" has a little bit of screaming mixed into the power metal base, but these moments are rare and the majority of the vocal presentation is focused on melody rather than heaviness. It works quite well, and though Chainsaw's vocals aren't the strongest on the market they fit the music well.

*The Journey Into the Heart of Darkness* offers more than enough unique ideas to warrant a look from American audiences just getting their first exposure of this Polish group. Though it may initially seem somewhat simplistic, there is a lot more going on in Chainsaw's music than one might think. However, here's hoping that we get more releases from this group as their album that came out the year after this one, *A Sin Act*, has yet to be put out in the US (from what I can tell) and is said to be even better.

<http://www.metalmind.com.pl/>

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