

# Metal Only

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Band: Last Bastion(US)

Genre: Power Metal

Label: Independent

Albumtitle: The Road To Redemption

Duration: 56:40

Releasedate: 04.04.2014



A sword stabbing the end of a trail, which leads to a castle, whose gate is about to shinningly open ...

This cover motive drapes the album "The Road To Redemption". It does not only promise a "welcome to our album" but it's also very fitting as a stereotypical and classic power metal motive, as it would match to Rhapsody of Fire for example.

I noticed right away that the "B" in the lettering of Last Bastion's band emblem optical reminds of Blind Guardian's. And indeed, the opener "I Know When I'm Home" reminded me of a hybrid between Guardian and Rhapsody by its catchy chorus, pithy and blazing riffs and the truly amazingly powerful voice of the singer Joe Lovatt.

He somehow really sounds like Mister Kürsch from the "blind Guardians", with a whiff of clearness of Fabio Lione (Rhapsody) and it's pleasing right away. In addition there are concise keyboard melodies; they somehow fit the sound perfectly, though.

Okay, the five guys from the grunge stronghold Seattle don't invent the new power metal and the concious listener notices bonds to Sabaton (the chorus of "Ancient Lands" for example almost sounds identical as their cover of Amon Amarth's "Twilight Of The Thunder God"), Stormwarrior or Ironfire. Nevertheless the catchy melodies and the entire sound can convince absolutely and they provide the band a recognition value that I like a lot.

Only towards the end of the disc the sound becomes too neo-classical for me and somehow drifts of in a fenzy with partly "speed-tootling", which is heard far too often. The last track "Forevermore" closes the album with an almost folk loaded entry, which then turns to another speed banger.

Conclusion:

Last Bastion got the right mix of dynamic vocals, resolute rythms in the drum/bass area and classic inserts of keyboards, which never bothered me. The band surely isn't the "last bastion" of melodic and speedy power metal, but it's a strong warrior next to the above mentioned heroes, on the battlefield in the fight against music out of the tin can.

Rating: 7,5/10

Recommendations: I Know when I'm Home, Ancient Lands und Angels Tyranny

Weblink: <http://www.lastbastionofficial.com> , <http://www.facebook.com/lastbastionpowermetal>

LineUp:

Joe Lovatt - Lead Vocals / Lead Guitar

Matt Lahr - Lead Guitar / Backing Vocals

Larry Barnard - Bass Guitar / Backing Vocals

Matt Bethman – Keyboards / Backing Vocals

Matt Carter - Drums / Percussion

Tracklist:

01. I Know When I'm Home
02. Ancient Lands
03. Plataea
04. Northern Kingdom
05. Angel's Tyranny
06. Road to Redemption
07. The Way of Kings pt I - Cursed by Fate
08. The Way of Kings pt II – Stormblessed
09. Liberation
10. Forevermore

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