

Unnaturally Superb

The title track to *Industrial Hero*, the debut release from the **Ben Darwish Trio**, sounds like it ought to appear in one of those role-playing video games where smiths still fashion majestic swords and machines are a terrible marvel to behold. The Final Fantasy series comes to mind. There is a kooky and – forgive me – industrial vibe to the number, which brings to mind the fascination Bill Frisell has with sonic squiggles in his live performances. It is unconventional, but it creates a unique ambience and makes you want to stop and pay attention, which can be a difficult trick to pull off in the genre of instrumental jazz.

Loaded with funky piano grooves, *Industrial Hero* is a lively feast for the ears. Darwish's dizzying keystrokes on "Mind the Hair" make you feel like you're traveling on London's trains with your head out a window, trying to "mind the gap" as the conductors frequently remind passengers. Also not without their merits are Drew Shoal on drums, who conjures up visions of Jack DeJohnette at his frenetic finest on the creepy stomper "Impressions of a Lurking Menace," and Zach Wallmark on bass, whose muted, complementary tones shine on the band's subdued cover of Christina Aguilera's "Beautiful."

Darwish, a senior at the UO, and his trio have a flair for the dynamic, rather than the dramatic. These energetic songs are as cool as Snoopy in shades, so opportunities for head-bobbing and toe-tapping abound. Even when the band changes time mid-song and plays with off rhythms, you almost feel able to catch the changes when they happen. The unnatural, in a

way, feels natural.

Fresh off two sold-out Portland shows, Darwish and company let the good times roll and make you want to roll some more. The Ben Darwish Trio celebrates the release of *Industrial Hero* at 9 pm Friday, Jan. 19 at Jo Federigo's. 21+ show. \$5. – *Brian Palmer*

Constitution of Treason

The metalcore revolution has begun, and a new band is wearing the mantle of leader. The East Brunswick, N.J., quintet **God Forbid** has been dubbed by critics as leaders of the New Wave of American Metal, a nod to the ever-influential New Wave of British Heavy Metal that domi-

nated the hard rock scene in the early to mid '80s.

Four days into God Forbid's headlining tour to support their sixth recording, *IV: Constitution of Treason*, I spoke to guitarist and vocalist Doc Coyle, who was in Detroit. "We definitely take a lot of different styles, a mixture of death metal, thrash and chaotic metalcore," he says, "and we throw all that together. We were really one of the first bands to do what we're doing, and it's really popular now, so I think a lot of people might not give us credit for that. But I think over the years we transformed into much more of a straight-ahead metal band."

"Big" metal shows are rare in Eugene, and though this one could take place at a

much larger venue, God Forbid chose to bring their pummeling hard-core influenced metal to the relatively tiny WOW Hall. As Coyle says, "To us, we're not some massive band. We want smaller clubs where there's 200 or 300 people and there's a good vibe and people are having a good time. It's just the right move for the type of band that we are." Coyle says this will probably be the last chance for fans to see them touring this album. "It's a great show, a great lineup, so I hope everyone gets a chance to come out for it," he says.

The band's Eugene show, billed as "Hardcore 4 Hunger," will be a benefit for Food For Lane County.

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God Forbid

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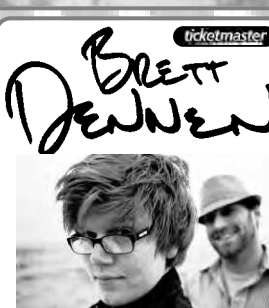
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