

**Model of the Week**

**Speak Out**

**Zodiac**

**For Your**

**Entertainment**

**Agenda**

**Concerts**

**Movies**

**Dish**

**Live This Week**

**Motorhead**

**Ads**

**Meet the Staff**

[Back to Home](#) >

Tuesday, Nov 08, 2005

 [email this](#)  [print this](#)  [reprint or license this](#)

Posted on Wed, Nov. 02, 2005

## Mixing up the metal

### Beyond Fallen combines styles to find its own sound

By Alan K. Stout

The members of the band Beyond Fallen see heavy metal as an amalgamation. They see all of it - from its earliest days in the late '60s to its most recent modern-rock offerings - as one collective whole.

Judas Priest. Tool. Black Sabbath. Nine Inch Nails.

To Beyond Fallen, it's all good. So, not surprisingly, they put all of it into their own music.

"More than anything, we're trying to play our own interpretation of the kind of music that we like, as fans, and preserve the traditions of this type of music," says vocalist Joe Karavis. "When people say 'heavy metal,' you could be anywhere. It's one end of the spectrum to the next. When you say 'heavy metal band,' that's a really tough label to try and sort through, because there's so many different kinds of metal. We're trying to be modern with some of the things we do, and we're also trying to preserve the metal sound that seems to be timeless."

Formed just over two years ago, Beyond Fallen also features Steve Jasvilewicz on guitar, Mike Johnson on guitar, Chuck Donahue on bass and Tom Carden on drums. The group released its first four-song self-titled EP in 2004, and have just released a full-length CD, "Lost In The Shadows."

The band has performed at area venues such as The Staircase, Corkscrews, the former Club 77 and Crocodile Rock in Allentown, and have opened shows for acts such as W.A.S.P. and Overkill. Influences also include Pink Floyd, Slayer, Rush, Metallica, Dream Theater, Deep Purple and David Bowie.

The band's latest CD is a blistering 10-track effort that flexes plenty of metal might. There's elements of thrash, modern-metal and some traditional sounds, including scorching solos and churning riffs. And that's just how the band likes it.

"More than anything else, it's the kind of music that I'm capable of doing," says Karavis. "I love metal. I like the diversity of it. As far as the music being powerful, or how 'heavy' it is - that's not a big issue. You can make all the noise in the world, but if the song doesn't have a flow to it, or it doesn't really

climax at any point, than I think it's kind of worthless."

Karavis says Beyond Fallen combats that problem in two ways: working well together as a musical unit and making sure the songs have some purpose.

"It's all a part of having good chemistry with the guys in the band," he says. "Everybody in the band is growing, and is trying to do some new things, and is trying to bring some new elements to the music. We want to tell stories with the music sometimes, or say something a little bit political, without getting too topical about it.

"Like a lot of people, my lyrics come from everyday life experiences, and observing the way other people are living, or the way your life is," he adds. "Some of it is personal experiences, but I definitely don't want to write songs that say 'I'm so depressed' or 'I want to party.' A lot of it is speaking from the third person, so that maybe somebody can relate to it."

The band's new album was recorded at Sound Investments studios in Scranton and was self-produced. It was engineered by Joe Wegleski and mastered by Tom Borthwick. Karavis admits Beyond Fallen has a dark edge to it, and with song titles such as the title track, plus "Concrete Lucifer," "The Lowest Point," "Bringing Out The Dead" and "The Rise of The Fallen," it's easy to see why. Still, he says the music is anchored with positive themes.

"Even 'Rise of The Fallen' is kind of an upbeat thing for us," he says. "It's kind of like the Notre Dame fight song. People that say discouraging things to us, but we're not going to let that bother us. We're going to rise above it. And a song like 'Bringing Out The Dead' is kind of a social thing based around Columbine. We're not glamorizing it, but saying 'Why did these kids do this?' Instead of just saying 'Boy, they went nuts,' the social issue there is 'Why did they do it?' "

Beyond Fallen will host a CD release party on Saturday at The Island Club in Mayfield.

Count on some volume.

"When we play, we want people to feel like they're not just seeing a bar band, but somebody that maybe they'd see in a bigger venue," says Karavis. "We really try to put together a set that keeps people's attention. We want to sound really big and powerful. The type of metal we do has a lot of heavy guitars - a really, really thick guitar sound - and that's what we want. We don't want to preach to the audience. We want to put on a show."

If you go ...

WHAT: Beyond Fallen's "Lost In The Shadows" CD release party. Also on the bill is Idol Eyez, Ethereal Collapse, Lowlyfe, Balero and Absolution

WHERE: The Island Club, Rt. 6, Mayfield.

WHEN: Saturday, Nov. 5 at 8 p.m.

COVER: \$5

ON THE WEB: <http://www.beyondfallen.com/>



[email this](#)



[print this](#)



[reprint or license this](#)

**REAL Cities**

Visit other Real Cities sites

[News](#) | [Business](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Living](#) | [Shop Local](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Homes](#)  
[About TimesLeader.com](#) | [About the Real Cities Network](#) | [Terms of Use & Privacy Statement](#) | [About Knight Ridder](#) | [Copyright](#)



[Advanced Search](#)

Clear 64°  
**5 Day Forecast**



Friday 14 July, 2006

**The Citizens Voice**      [home](#) : [news](#) : [news](#) : [local](#)

**More News**

BY HEIDI RUCKNO  
STAFF WRITER

07/14/2006

[Email to a friend](#)  [Printer-friendly](#)

**An upstart heavy metal band from Northeastern Pennsylvania is receiving national exposure.**

*Beyond Fallen, which features musicians from Plymouth and Wilkes-Barre, has a song on a national compilation CD.*

The song "Concrete Lucifer" is featured on the Concrete Planet Summer 2006 sampler, the band announced. The CD is distributed free in 270 stores nationwide.

Concrete Planet is a music marketing company based in New York. The sampler CD promotes obscure artists by giving them a chance to be heard by a national audience.

Included with Beyond Fallen on the new CD are the bands Shadows Fall, Strapping Young Lad, Powerman 5000 and Satyricon, the band said.

According to singer Joe Karavis, of Wilkes-Barre, Beyond Fallen is the only unsigned band on the disc.

"Concrete Lucifer" is a song from the band's first full length album, titled "Lost in the Shadows." They recorded the album locally and distribute it themselves, largely through the Internet.

The band formed in 2003 when five local musicians got together. They wanted to play original music that didn't fit into any particular category, without regard for musical trends of marketability, Karavis said.

"I wasn't doing anything at the time and I wanted to get involved in something creative again," Karavis said. "I didn't want to join another cover band."

Karavis and bassist Chuck Donahue, of Plymouth, joined guitarists Steve Jasulewicz and Mike Johnson to form Beyond Fallen. Drummer Tom Carden joined the band last year.



**Classifieds Center**

- [Place an Ad](#)
- NEW**
- [Search ads](#)
- [Find a job](#)
- [Post a resume](#)
- [Car Ads](#)
- [Local Dealers](#)

**News**

- [Top Stories](#)
- Local**
- [Town Crier](#)
- [School news](#)
- [Police / Courts](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Births](#)
- [National News](#)
- [World News](#)
- [Strange News](#)
- [Science](#)
- [Technology](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Lottery Results](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Today's Print Ads](#)

**Lifestyles**

- [Features](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Weddings](#)
- [more...](#)

**Local Sports**

- [Local Sports](#)
- [Red Barons](#)
- [Penguins](#)
- [more...](#)

**Opinion**

- [Opinion](#)
- [Editorials](#)
- [Letters to the Editor](#)

**Columnists**

*Featured Properties*

**KINGSTON  
HAWLEY  
HUDSON**  
*More Featured Properties*

*Featured Autos*

**VOLKSWAGEN '02  
JETTA TI  
CHRYSLER '00  
SEBRING  
CONVERTIBLE JXI  
MERCEDES '02 E320**  
*More Featured Autos*

**Subscribe to the Newspaper**



**Credit Cards Only!**



"Discount Prices Every Day"

**Steve Bennett**  
**Jonathan Bombulie**  
**Matt Engel**  
**more...**

*Karavis and Donahue said they are honored to be included on the CD. They hope it will significantly broaden the band's fan base.*

*"The fact that we are on this compilation with so many established bands means that people are going to listen and people are going to get curious," Donahue said.*

**Classifieds**

**Classifieds Overview**  
**Place an Ad**  
**Classifieds Home**  
**more...**

*Beyond Fallen has a small but loyal following locally, but the majority of their fans are overseas. The band has distribution deals in Germany, Belgium and The Netherlands, Karavis said.*

[hruckno@citizensvoice.com](mailto:hruckno@citizensvoice.com)

**Yellow Pages**

**YP Overview**  
**Advertisers Index**  
**All Categories**  
**more...**

©The Citizens Voice 2006

[Email to a friend](#)  [Printer-friendly](#)  [Top](#)

**Personal Finance**

**Top Finance News**  
**Reports and Articles**  
**Education**  
**more...**

**Community**

**Community Calendar**  
**Community Websites**  
**Weather**  
**more...**

**Fun and Games**

**Fun And Games**  
**Horoscopes**  
**Crosswords**  
**more...**

**Links**

**For Seniors**  
**For Teens**  
**Health**  
**more...**

**Customer Service**

**About Us**

**Contact Us**  
**My Zwire**  
**Promotions**

**Premiere Businesses**

**Premiere Businesses**  
**Home Improvement**  
**Children & Family**  
**more...**

## **BEYOND FALLEN - LOST IN THE SHADOWS**



**INDEPENDENT**

## **METAL TO INFINITY**

**After the release of their self-titled debut four song EP, US based Beyond Fallen's first full length album is a fact, sounds truly and i'd like to share my opinions about "Lost In The Shadows". I've praised these guys' EP with all of my heart and the point is that with the release of their new 10 track album, my personal ratings will be even better. To all US minded, Power Thrashing Metal maniacs...this is the album that takes you to heaven in no time.**

**As on Beyond Fallen's EP, the musicians individual duties are awesome, let's call it very professional. Ex- Unleashed Power singer Joe Karavis' voice sounds still pretty rough, stable and controlled...yeah, he's in very good shape (like we used to know from him actually). The rest of the band? You've gotta hear it to believe it what a great forms of skills they're loaded with. The guitar shreds spitting both flame and fire and while the scorching solo axe attacks starts, all hell breaks loose. Blistering, melodic, burning and powerful guitar works we all can dream about it!**

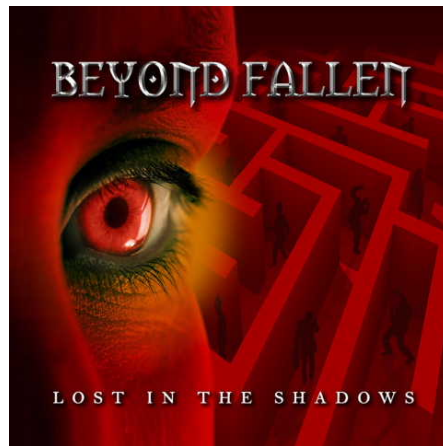
**Hard pounding drums, technical as can be...Tom Carden's skin bashings reminds me of Dave Lombardo's (Slayer) phenomenal works, yes it does! Also the bass lines are outstanding so i really have no reasons to complain with a band like beyond fallen. Their blend of US Power and Thrash Metal is just perfect and fans of early Iced Earth, Imagika, Eden's Fall,**

**HavocHate, Wind Wraith or Iron Maiden...better look out for such great release. An album, pure Metal loaded and influenced by both Classic and nowadays US Metal, incl. fire spitting breaks, leads,...just name it and you've got it is the message here.**

**Just like with a lot of other great US Metal bands, unbelievable to me some of them doesn't pick up so far by one or another record label. I know for sure, many of them are good enough to sign a well deserved contract so from where the wait or hesitating? My complete respect goes to all bands spreading their music independently and don't give up the Metal fight... awesome guys and keep pushing forward!**

**Again, looking for brilliant US Power / Thrash Metal? Beyond Fallen helps you out for sure, check them out at: [www.beyondfallen.com](http://www.beyondfallen.com) and order as fast as you can, you won't regret! MY POINTS: 92 / 100**

**[RETURN TO MTI INDEX](#)**



## **BEYOND FALLEN**

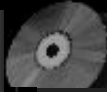
### **"Lost In The Shadows"**

2005 Private Pressing (52:16)

Finally, the first full-length album of this band following the foretaste 4 track Mini-CD released in 2003 that had been featured here as well. Now the moment of truth has come. Have they kept the musical direction of the predecessor or have they succumbed to the current trends? My strained nerves get soothed by the first track or the rather long intro respectively followed by "Lost In The Shadows", a well-done power hymn (greetings from ICED EARTH) conjuring up a satisfied grin on my face. On the other hand I almost lost my lower jaw listening to the third track "Concrete Lucifer" dominated by a rather bulky melody line and the worst...distorted vocals (Joe, why do you torture us this way ???!). Fortunately this one is the only cheesy track and the band returns to their roots on the following seven tracks firing one killer song after the other off the speakers. Thank goodness they all in all stick to the Mini-CD's musical direction (for the review see CD archive). Many melodic solos are filled in and serve the songs. The guitar duet Jasuilewicz / Johnson has even improved their skills compared to the debut. And the powerful and aggressive vocals fit the songs perfectly (hey Joe, you really know it !!!). All in all a good album with one odd track that you can get over quickly. But check it out for yourself and give them a chance. They really deserve it. [www.beyondfallen.com](http://www.beyondfallen.com)

RonJacMetal

Translation: Peter Schulien

**BEYOND FALLEN**  
Lost in the shadows

Arschgeil! Nun endlich gibt es das Debütalbum der US Powermetaller in den Regalen und die Truppe hat sich echt gut gemacht. Klar sind die ICED EARTH und IRON MAIDEN Einflüsse noch rauszuhören, gerade beim nach dem Intro losrockenden mittelschnellen Opener mit seiner ergreifenden Melodie, aber schon der zweite Song ist ein angethrashtes Powermetalinferno. Nun, in den Strophen ist der Gesang reichlich verfremdet, während der Refrain vor positiver Wut nur so strotzt und absolut geil kommt. Das Riffing hier ist trocken und bodenständig, der Song geradlinig und einfach zornig. Weiter so, Freunde, weiter so!

Und so treffen knallhartes Schrubben auf düstere Gitarrenharmonien, stampfende und walzende Rhythmen auf treibende Parts, dann kommen mystische Passagen mit hypnotischem Drumming und verdammt erhabene Melodien zum Tragen und über allem thront Sänger Joe mit seiner doch recht eigenen, rauhen, etwas dunkleren, aber immer klaren Stimme, die zum Powermetal der Band passt, wie der berühmte Arsch auf den Eimer. Die Produktion ist kraftvoll, transparent und sehr natürlich wuchtig. Sehr geil ist die furiose Leadgitarrenarbeit, die in den meisten Tracks zum Zuge kommt.

BEYOND FALLEN hätten vor 16 Jahren noch das Genre revolutioniert, heuer sind sie dennoch nicht zum alten Eisen zu zählen, denn das infernalische Riffing tut seinen Teil, die Songs mit Feuer und Leidenschaft zu erfüllen. Es sind die alten Thrashelemente, die hier die Intensität bis in Spitzenwerte treiben. Da kackt der breiige und vollkommen Stumpfe Trendthrash der neuen EXODUS Scheibe vollkommen ab bei ähnlichen Härtegraden. Wie alte OVERKILL abgestoppt und auf Tollwut mag man BEYOND FALLEN empfinden. Tollwütig, fürwahr, das sind sie, auch wenn sie weit von den Hyperspeedorgien des 80er Thrashs entfernt ihres Weges ziehen, das machen die Powermetaleinflüsse. Ein mörderischer Mix!

BEYOND FALLEN sind in den heutigen Zeiten eine echte Notwendigkeit, zeigen sie einerseits den Neothrashern wo der Hammer hängt, brettern sie andererseits die Verfechter des digitalen Pseudopowermetals in den Rinnstein. Die Scheibe hat ein unheimlich prickelndes Livefeeling, vollkommen irrsinnig! Ansonsten ist das Songwriting angenehm eingängig und packend, hält die Band also weit über dem aussagelosen Durchschnitt und lässt Songs ans Tageslicht treten, die auch nach Jahren noch zünden werden.

CD gibt es für 15,50 Euro bei [www.hellionrecords.de](http://www.hellionrecords.de)

**Tracklist:**

01. In avanti a nerezza

**Weitere Infos:****Verfasser:**

[SirLordDoom](#)

**Autorwertung:**

8,5

**Leserwertung:**

9.5 Punkte / 3 Votes

**Eigene Wertung abgeben:****Kommentare:**

[Noch keine Kommentare](#)

[Druckversion aufrufen](#)

**Datum:**

22.05.2006

**Diese Scheibe kaufen!**  
[www.metal-mailorder.com](http://www.metal-mailorder.com)

02. Lost in the shadows
03. Concrete Lucifer
04. The lowest point
05. Bringing out the dead
06. Mask of deception
07. Fuel the fire
08. Chasing infinity
09. A stranger's stare
10. The rise of the fallen

---

## LESERKOMMENTARE:

LESERKOMMENTARE:

 [Noch keine Kommentare vorhanden](#)

metal district - sex, drugs & rock'n'roll - we write about it

established in 1999

69 users online

- Heavy Metal, Power Metal, Speed Metal, Thrash Metal, Death Metal, Black Metal, Gothic Metal, True Metal, Doom, Grindcore und vieles mehr -  
Metal District - Das Magazin mit Reviews / Rezensionen, Interviews, Underground - Specials, Fotos, News, Konzertterminen, Tourdaten, Mailorder und mehr!



10/27/2005

## Rise of the Fallen

By: Gene Padden

### Local metal band rocks "for real"

Since he started his heavy metal career many years ago, Beyond Fallen vocalist Joe Karavis has been called many things. And you can bet your bottom lip ring that a lot of them weren't all that flattering.

It comes with the territory known as the local heavy metal music scene, and it doesn't matter if said scene makes its home in Spokane, Austin, or Wilkes-Barre.

It's just the way it is.

In the case of Karavis, the man has been a variable pincushion for criticism. In any local "original" music scene, familiarity breeds fondness, and those who shun the rank and file find themselves ostracized - staring at a garage full of unsold CDs the club-hopping public could give two shits about.



Karavis and his bands have won countless contests, and anytime a national metal act rolled into town, it seemed he automatically had the gig. Unfortunately - and there are many other bands that can empathize - the collective impression of the rest of the music community isn't such as, "good for them." It's usually more like, "Whose ass did they kiss to get that gig?"

But of all the envy, and all the not-so-complimentary names Karavis has been dealt, no one's ever called him what he actually is.

A realist.

He and his Beyond Fallen bandmates have a new CD coming out next weekend, and they're spending a lot of money on advertising, and a lot of time beating the streets. Still, they aren't expecting the world when they hit the stage at The Island Club.

"We're probably playing to our own crowd really," he said. "It's our music. I'm not going to go into a Red Sox bar if I'm a Yankees fan and try to convince them the Red Sox suck. They're going to hate it, and that's it. We're playing to our crowd."

Karavis said he wouldn't be surprised "if 10 people showed up." When you make the conscious decision to play

music you love as opposed to whatever modern radio has embraced, you deal with the ramifications, and you rock.

Beyond Fallen is an acquired taste, a band that opted to honor its metal influences rather than drop-tune for the masses. And that's metal in its true form, not what passes for metal these days.

We're talking about Black Sabbath, Iron Maiden, and Judas Priest.

Yeah, see? You're already cringing. That's fine with Beyond Fallen.

"We'd rather play two shows a month in front of somebody who wants to see us than a bunch of shows in front of people who don't," Karavis said. "People have already made up their minds that they like hip-hop or something before they go out to see a band. You're not going to change their minds. It's what I call 'Valley-itis.' It's an unwillingness to embrace anything they aren't used to."

Playing such a style has earned the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton-based band a label of old-school. While there aren't legions of music lovers packing our local night clubs to see bands that remind them of their free-wheeling youth, the sound has earned Beyond Fallen quite a bit of International recognition. A quick glance at the band's Web site reveals reviews from media in Germany, Greece, and Belgium, to name a few.

Heavy metal has always ruled the European and especially Scandinavian countries, and these outlets have heaped praise on Karavis and his vocal work.

Again, he has taken it all in stride.

"Those reviews are from the old CD, which is surprising because we didn't think it was that good," he said with a chuckle. "My lyrics are metal lyrics. They're cheesy or whatever. Some people dig them. Ten years from now, I'll look back and say, 'God why did I write that?'"

Despite the rave overseas reviews, each of Beyond Fallen's members have committed jobs and aren't about to hop a boat over to the Old Country. But the attention did get the band distribution deals and some much-needed sales to supplement the recording.

The new CD, *Lost in the Shadows*, is a result of more money, time, and effort spent in the studio. And Karavis has his best lineup yet: Steve Jaszewicz, guitar; Mike Johnson, guitar; Chuck Donahue, bass; and Tom Carden, drums.

The CD's artwork and song titles elude to dark and desperate times, but Karavis explained that there's more to their work than doom and gloom.

"It seems dark and hopeless, but I'm not a dark and hopeless guy," he said. "Otherwise, I'd check out now. What's the point? A lot of it I think came across as political without even trying."

Scanning through the tracks, it doesn't take a brain surgeon to realize songs like "Mask of Deception," "Lost in the Shadows," "Fuel the Fire," and "The Lowest Point" just might pertain to some of today's news headlines.

"We're not trying to push an agenda or anything like that," he said. "I am pissed off at a lot of what's happening right now, but we don't get too topical with lyrics because then years from now they won't be relevant."

Just like years from now, he realizes his band that he loves might not matter, either.

"We have no prospects," he said. "We could tell everybody we have label interest, but I won't come out and say we have label interest and be an asshole about it.

"Is that supposed to get people interested in you? People don't care. We all make money outside the band. We can do what we want creatively. If we want to write big, dumb, thrash songs, we can do it."

Given today's modern rock climate, some "big, dumb, thrash" could be a welcomed departure. Beyond Fallen's fanbase, which is a very vocal crew, has a craving for the genre. Karavis said the most difficult task the band deals with is finding these people in the woodwork.

"Our friends will talk your ears off about all kinds of music - not just metal," he said. "So many people have approached us in the past year and just happened to be at a show and they had no idea we were a local band. They're like, 'Where do you play?' And it's like, 'Wherever we can get a gig.'"

Beyond Fallen's CD release on November 5 is also the band's two-year anniversary party. Balero, Lowlyfe, Ethereal Collapse, Absolution, and Idol Eyez will also perform.

Karavis, the consummate realist, has but one message for those who might stumble upon Beyond Fallen's party next weekend.

"If you think we suck, that's OK," he said. "But give other things a chance. And not just us. People work hard being in a band. People do it because they love music. We might get only 10 people. We're going to have fun and put on a show regardless."

WHAT: Beyond Fallen CD release

WHEN: Saturday, Nov. 5, 8 p.m.

WHERE: The Island Club, Route 6, Mayfield

MORE INFO: Visit [www.beyondfallen.com](http://www.beyondfallen.com)

*©Electric City 2005*

# Pushing The Boundaries "Beyond" Metal

## Local Band's New CD A Powerful Step Forward

By Mark Uricheck, Music Contributor, NEPAtoday.com

Joe Karavis is pleased with the response his band Beyond Fallen has received from other areas of Pennsylvania, and even Europe.

"The area that we're from though, it seems to be lagging a little bit behind" he says.

Watch out NEPA, because Karavis and his band are out to change things, with the release of their new CD of sonically brilliant, crushing, Dream Theater meets Slayer brand of heavy metal entitled "Lost in the Shadows". He's optimistic; "hopefully this will kickstart things" he says.

Even if NEPA music fans haven't exactly been knocking down the band's door yet, the guys in the band wouldn't know it. Since their inception two years ago, Beyond Fallen have been downright stalwart in their ideals. They've forged ahead with their own sound and vision of what they believe is great metal, and they've refused to cater to mainstream musical tastes and adjust their sound to bring in a larger crowd.



Talking to Joe Karavis upon the release of the band's new CD, you get the feeling there is a renewed spirit within the band, and that the band's fortunes are about to change.

"We're trying to get a little more visible, in front of everybody with this record" says Karavis. "We're getting played on the radio more, like in regular rotations at the college stations. I'm also doing some on-air interviews at the stations, so we're trying to get more visible in that aspect". Various local print media are set to cover the release of Beyond Fallen's new CD as well.

If Karavis' desire to gain more exposure on his home turf seems tenacious, it's not without warrant.

"When we go out and play, people will say to us 'where are you guys from?'. We'll say 'we're from here' (NEPA), and they'll be like 'really?'; they don't know who we are. So, obviously we haven't been doing a good enough job being accessible to the public. People will come up and say 'I've never heard you guys before but the show was amazing'. When you hear that, you know you're on to something pretty good. But we'd still like to get a little more visible".

I had the chance to ask Joe Karavis a few questions about the band and the new CD recently. Here's what Joe had to say.

**NEPAToday:** With "Lost in the Shadows", how did everything come together as far as writing and recording it?

**Joe Karavis:** Usually what we do is we write stuff on the spot. Sometimes the guys will bring in riffs. Our music is really centered around really heavy, heavy riffs - stuff that will get heads banging. But often what we'll do is we'll stand there for hours and everybody will throw in ideas, which center around the riff. We'll usually do that to get something on tape. We'll have a basic structure of maybe a chorus and a verse, and I'll take it home and work with it. I'll listen to it on my computer and come up with lyrics. The riffs kind of paint a picture, when I hear the riff I think of a theme for the song. It just kind of flows, it's kind of spontaneous. Then we really work on it and fine tune it. By the time we get to recording it, we're almost sick of playing it. We got done doing this CD, and we were like 'let's write some new stuff'. You're just listening to the stuff like 100 times. But that's how it goes; it's pretty spontaneous, everybody has input, and it's like a song by song jam.

**NEPAToday:** So how did the addition of new drummer Tom Carden change the dynamic of things for the band this time around? Was it a big adjustment?

**Karavis:** It was a big adjustment in a positive direction. We had about half of the album worked out and written before Tom got in the band, and the second half we did completely from scratch. It really did change the dynamic, some of the things Tom does. He does all kinds of stuff; progressive rock, progressive metal. He's changed the dynamic of the band by coming in and doing the things he's doing, and he's made everybody a lot better.

**NEPAToday:** It seems like on this record, and even on the last one, that you guys are more about the musicianship and the musical nuances than some other local bands. Was that a result of your influences or is that a conscious effort?

**Karavis:** I don't think that it was really conscious that we were going to go out and do that, I think more than anything else we wanted to write an album that was metal, and what our interpretation of metal would be. That's what we set out to do. I don't like to be called 'old school' because I think some people are getting the wrong impression of the band. You know, 'they're an old school metal band, they only play covers'. Just because it's not just screaming doesn't mean it doesn't sound modern or it doesn't have a place in contemporary metal. I think it definitely has it's place. I think part of the problem when it first came out was we played some covers, and we got branded as that. That's what we're trying to get away from. But we still use the time tested things that metal is all about in our music. We think that it's going to have more staying power than things that are a flash in the pan. Metal is timeless music. You don't want to get stuck with a label, with nostalgia or something like that, because you'll become irrelevant. I think the musicianship is very important.

**NEPAToday:** There's a great instrumental piece that opens "Lost In the Shadows".

**Karavis:** Yeah, having two guitar players in a band you can do alot of that stuff. That was a combination of Steve (Jasulewicz, guitarist) having one idea and Mike (Johnson, guitarist) having another. Steve does the rhythm part behind it and Mike plays over it. In one part, it almost sounds like violins playing. You've got the guitar overdubs, it sounds really cool. We thought it was a good idea to start the record out with something like

that. When we do it live, that's the way we do it. It sounds really good, how it comes across; it kind of builds.

**NEPAToday:** I know that the band has a European distribution deal with Hellion Records in Germany. How's the response to the band been from Europe?

**Karavis:** Everbody we've got feedback from has been positive. You can go on our website and we've got comments there. We've got more that are coming with this new disc. We just mailed out promo copies. The response to the first record was really positive. With us, we don't even like the first one anymore. You know, we've moved on to the next one. The response from people overseas, it just seems like they're so knowledgeable about this type of music over there. They write to us all the time. We get stuff from Greece, Portugal, Belgium, all over the place. It's getting to be more and more. I think the first disc was out for about a year I think before it started to get any response from over there. It was the beginning of this year that we started to hear about it. I guess some people got a hold of it, and passed it along, the it went to some magazines, things like that. I'd like to take the band over there, it's just a matter of expense. You know, who knows what's going to happen. Everybody says 'if you guys went over there you'd be great'.

**NEPAToday:**I know that you've been in a few other metal bands Joe, how does the Beyond Fallen experience measure up with your past band experiences?

**Karavis:** For me personally, the friendship that we have is probably better than with any other band I've been in. The chemistry of the music is a lot better. Different bands, I had different roles. One band, I wasn't the primary songwriter - there was one main songwriter. In some ways, that's ok. But if you notice, those situations only last for so long. There will be one guy that does the writing, and other guys will come in - like interchangeable parts. This is a pretty tight-knit group, I hope that it can continue. Everybody works really hard, and we don't have any problems at this point. In this band, everybody's holding it together. They're all really good at what they do, and they're down to earth, friendly people. When we get out and play, the band is really accessible.

**NEPAToday:**What does it take for a metal band, not only in this area, but anywhere to survive?

**Karavis:** That depends on what somebody's definition of surviving is. If you want to make money and live off of it, you're not going to do it doing what we're doing, around here. What we've found though is there's so many fans of what we're doing, we just need to work a little harder at reaching them. When people come out to see us, we make new friends every time we play. So, we're hoping that the ball keeps rolling. I don't know if there's a formula, we haven't quite figured it out yet, what's going to interest people. We can look at other bands in the area and say 'ok, they're drawing people, let's do what they're doing', but that's out what we're about. We're going to keep doing what we're doing. We'll keep our focus. It's rewarding for people to like what you're doing. There have been times where people didn't know we were playing, they'd just been at the place where we were, and the response has just been unbelievable. If we could reach more people and they understand what we're doing, I think we're going to get a good base.

**NEPAToday:** What's been the best part of these last two years, and where would you like to see the band in another two years?

**Karavis:** Probably the best thing was when we finally got this album and these songs done, and then we went into the studio and started to record them. They started to come to life, and we heard the sounds

coming out of the speakers - it was just so rewarding. After all the work the band put in, then we got a new drummer, we'd lost our practice space, Steve's dad had passed away right in the middle of us trying to do a lot of things, we had a lot of things going on. For us to listen to that when it was finally done was so rewarding. We worked so hard to be able to write those 10 songs, and we made them the best that we can make them. That was the best, for us to have this CD and be able to share it with everybody. In two years, I really don't know. I hope that I'm still doing it, that I still have the enthusiasm and the energy. Whether or not we're interational sensations really isn't a concern. We just want to be able to make music, and people who know metal, we want them to give us the thumbs up. When you get a thumbs up from those fans, you know you did something right. If we could still be doing that in a couple years I'll be happy.

*For more info on Beyond Fallen, "Lost In the Shadows", and the band's upcoming shows, visit [www.beyondfallen.com](http://www.beyondfallen.com), and [www.myspace.com/beyondfallen](http://www.myspace.com/beyondfallen).*

**ENTREPRENEUR** BY PAUL STERMAN

## Golden Touch

Former rock 'n' roll guitarist heads Inc. 500 CD company in Irvine. PHOTO BY



Anthony Cardenas, president of DiskFactory, a company that specializes in small CD orders for emerging bands.

PHOTO BY DAVID KAWASHIMA

### Golden Touch

Former rock 'n' roll guitarist heads Inc. 500 CD company in Irvine.

By Paul Sterman

Anthony Cardenas still gets excited about climbing the charts. But these days it's ascending business lists not the Billboard charts that rocks the world of the ex-bassist for heavy metal band Great White.

And DiskFactory, the Irvine-based company of which Cardenas is president, has recently ascended one of the grand peaks of corporate cataloguing: the Inc. 500. Every year the business magazine Inc. puts out its list of the 500 fastest-growing private companies in America, and checking in at No. 485 in the 2005 group is DiskFactory, which has evolved a quicker, more streamlined process to reproduce CDs and DVDs.

"I was so happy about making the Inc. 500 list," says Cardenas, who 15 years ago was blazing away as bassist "Tony Montana" his moniker with Great White contributing his guitar riffs on such monster hits as "Once Bitten, Twice Shy" and "House of Broken Love."

How successful?

Well, the numbers tell the story: From 2002 when DiskFaktory was launched through 2004, the company's rate of growth was 297%; it has served more than 40,000 customers and revenue in 2004 was \$3.7 million.

"We're getting so many CD orders right now, it's just crazy," Cardenas says. "We can hardly keep up. And the DVD orders are really picking up, too."

DiskFaktory also reproduces data disks; and it specializes in the Digital Business Card CD, which is the same size as a paper business card and has the same basic information on the exterior but also contains a company's CD presentation and can be popped into a computer. Cardenas, the erstwhile hard rocker who is now a self-described computer "geek to the nth degree," hands one out himself when a visitor asks for his business card.

### Transforming an industry

DiskFaktory's copying innovations are helping transform the business of mass-producing discs, putting a whole new spin on the process by bringing duplication into the digital age.

Traditionally, making copies of discs involved inks, chemicals and customized tooling for each job. That has meant high set-up costs passed on to the client and a month delay before the order was ready, says DiskFaktory CEO Ben Abadi.

But the Irvine company uses an all-digital process that involves no tooling and allows customers to get their discs back in as little as 24 hours.

The old way was called "replication;" the new way is called "duplication," Abadi notes.

DiskFaktory's approach also enables customers who range from small, independent bands to big corporations to place their orders online.

This, too, translates into simplicity and accessibility, cutting out steps that have typically bogged down the copying process. Ordering through the company's website ([www.diskfaktory.com](http://www.diskfaktory.com)) and getting to customize the orders to fit your business's needs takes minutes and can be done at any time of the day or night.

The company's target customers are aspiring musicians and filmmakers people who need to have copies of their work made to distribute, whether to be screened or played or sold. Particularly for independent bands trying to make it in the music business which is where Cardenas's experience as a musician is so valuable DiskFaktory has become a great option, because it cuts way down on the cost of reproducing a debut CD.

"Traditionally, start-up musicians couldn't reproduce a record without paying at least \$1,500 to \$2,000," Abadi says. "Now, you can come to our website and pay \$200 and get a full-quality package.

"We're servicing the other 99% of the people in the music business who aren't signed to record labels."

With the old technology, bands had to order thousands of CDs at a time to justify the setup costs. Making such a large investment when a record might not sell was a financial risk. Now, with DiskFaktory's digital process, artists can order a few hundred discs for a few hundred dollars and then, if the record sells, come back and order another batch, and keep going along like that.

The system has worked well for East Coast band Beyond Fallen. The metal band went through DiskFaktory when it ordered copies of its full-length CD, "Lost in the Shadows," this past November.

"You can do a small order and you do the order in two minutes it's great," says Joe Karavis, founder of the five-member band, which plays venues in New York and Pennsylvania.

Karavis, a graphic designer, says he was also able to design the artwork for the album cover on the DiskFaktory website.

[free web hosting](#) | [web host](#) | [wordpress hosting](#) | [affordable web hosting](#) | [php hosting](#)  
[web page hosting](#) | [web hosting](#) | [website hosting](#) | [web hosting service](#) | [web hosting](#)

## BEYOND FALLEN - BEYOND FALLEN



INDEPENDENT

## METAL TO INFINITY

**Beyond Fallen is an American five piece Power Metal band, started back in 2001. Guitar player Steve Jasuilewicz's intention was to set up a real Metal unity so he started looking out for some other musicians. Steve's good friend Jamey Wilczewski joined his mate shortly after. He was ready to hit the drums loud and hard as can be.**

**Several auditions actually led to nothing at all which means, they didn't found the right guys for playing Metal the way they had in mind themselves. After placing an ad, a lead guitarist / backing vocalist named Mike Johnson fulfilling the ranks. So far so good, left to found was a bassist and ofcourse a singer. Ex-Unleashed Power / Anger Reign vocalist Joe Karavis joined the band as well as bass player Chuck Donahue did after a while. Line up was completed and there they go with no holding back, only full force ahead and serving a strongful type of Metal was their main goal to achieve. Heading their way to the Scranton's Sound Investment Studios in 2003 for the recordings of a debut, self titled and independent 4 track EP.**

**Four songs, only True US Power Metal maniacs allowed! First song called "A Line In The Sand" and hits me in the face as soon as the intro was gone. Joe's voice is original, mean as hell and pretty rough. Put a singer**

**like Joe in a band and great results are assured! Both guitar players caught my attention right from the start. These guys have plenty of power and energy in their might to offer a beautiful way of using the electric guitars with a lot of talent. Bass lines and drum sections in perfect harmony, well Beyond Fallen is more than just a regular Metal band.**

**Second song in line entitled "Dim Vertical Sun" is about the future and delivers the same qualities as the previous song, even with more melody. Next "Bomb Inside Your Head" is my personal fave of the entire EP for sure. Awesome Power Metal, sometimes near to Thrash like we used to know from many Bay Area, 80s bands. Listen up to the guitar duties, both riffings and solo's are so fantastic in every way and allow me to say that only real good musicians can do this. Check out this song, bang your head and let your adrenaline start to flow.**

**Last track called "The Traveller" starts very easy with clean tuned guitars before hell breaks loose and changes into a very attractive Metal song influenced by bands straight out of the Classic Metal movements. Beyond Fallen has potential, no doubt about that. Looking for True Metal that assault from the ears, this is what you need with satisfaction guaranteed! You can order the EP via the band's website at:**

**[www.beyondfallen.com](http://www.beyondfallen.com) MY POINTS: 91 / 100**

**[RETURN TO MTI INDEX](#)**

# UROTSUKIDOJI'S CD REVIEWS

- - -

## BEYOND FALLEN : DEMO 2004



I love getting CDs like this one, a solid disc from a band that has an obvious respect for the old days. From the album cover I was not sure what to expect, maybe some really extreme stuff, or some sort of Metalcore, but nope, these guys are all about an older brand of Metal. This Pennsylvania based band mixes classic Metal, with some early mid-paced Thrash elements, and a good dose of NWOBHM. The disc won't win any "CD of the year" awards, but it will put a smile across your face, and make you think of simpler times. You'll be transported back to an era when we all had frayed jean jackets adorned with the patches of our favourite bands, and when no one had ever heard of Metalcore, Nu-Metal, Black-Metal, etc. The production on these four songs is somewhat raw, but it works in their favour, and gives them a street-level vibe. I mean let's face it, when someone like Iron Maiden puts out an album of classic sounding Heavy Metal, it always sounds like an album put out by Champaign-swilling millionaires, not by an underground, beer-chugging band. It's nice to hear some edge in this type of music again. The only real draw back I can see to the band advancing in the future, might be due to the vocals. Joe K., (Anger Reign / Unleashed Power) has a very specific, almost spoken style of singing, that's well suited to the songs here, but there are a few moments where you can sense his limitations. When all is said and done it's really only a shade above an average demo release, but these guys have their metallic hearts in the right place, and are truly defenders of the faith. For more info, the band can be found at the cryptic web address of [beyondfallen.com](http://beyondfallen.com).

**RATING = 6.5 *Classic Metal* (Released 2004)**