



Photo by Calista Condo

Drummer Jon Tatham plays along with the rest of the band during a show at The Memories Lounge in Richland.

By Calista Condo
Photo Editor

"SKYSETUNFOLD, why not?" is bass guitarist Brad Smith's slogan for his band, SKYSETUNFOLD. This five-piece band will go anywhere to play a show for anyone. The band is made up of twenty-something college students who want nothing more than to play music and have a good time and is becoming a local band worth lending an ear to.

This band from Manahawkin, N.J. formed in 2004. Lead singer Bob Brewster is a junior at Rowan and is majoring in history and education. Guitarist Kyle Corrigan is also from Rowan and is a junior majoring in computer science. The other guitarist, Daniel Champa, is a music major at Ocean Community College (OCC). Drummer John Tatham and bassist Brad Smith complete the rest of the band and will be enrolling at OCC.

With three years of playing together under their belt along with hard work and dedication, the band is starting to mature. They are coming into a sound all their own, with influences such as Between the Buried and Me, Into the Moat and August

Burns Red, according to their MySpace Web site. They have gone from hardcore dance metal to serious technical metal with a hardcore edge. This has made their fans stop dancing and start listening.

"People are listening rather than dancing," said Corrigan, who has played guitar for six years.

In 2005, SKYSETUNFOLD produced a 5-song demo, "A Saint Among Thieves," in Celestial Sounds Studios in Camden-Wyoming, Del. Shortly after this demo was made, they switched gears and started creating a sound that the band members say they just fell into.

Joe Hendricks, a 19-year-old guitarist for infairVerona, SKYSETUNFOLD's brother band, feels that their change was for the better.

"From their CD, their new material is stuff they haven't done before, which is good," Hendricks said.

According to band members, the main reason for their sound change was because of an improvement in their playing abilities. Another reason was that their tastes in music slightly changed.

"Champa really wanted to be excellent," Smith said. "He is going to school

for music and just because of that we all got better."

"The lack of experience and ability really held us back," added Brewster.

The more the band played the better they got and the better they got they harder they played.

SKYSETUNFOLD has gone a long way since their first show in February, 2004, at Manahawkin's local venue, Froggers, which has since been shut down, forcing the band to play elsewhere. For the years that SKYSETUNFOLD has been together, they have been to places including Buffalo, New York City, West Virginia and even Texas.

According to the band, they have gone on two 2-week tours and almost 15 weekend tours up and down the East Coast.

"I think touring has a lot to do with getting our name out," said Tatham. "Not only does the band get their name out on tour but they also reap in a loyal fan base where they choose to go."

Sixteen-year-old Nathan Hunter from Chapmanville, W.Va. has only seen SKYSETUNFOLD once on their January tour but awaits their return in April when they set out on tour.

"They know how to please a crowd," Hunter said. "Their music is outstanding. They are a heavy band, which is about all I listen to."

Jacob Nelson, 16, from Hazel Green, Ala. described their music as brutal and said that their stage presence was something to be noted. He also mentioned that they are a bunch of genuinely nice guys. InfairVerona's Hendricks, who has played a number of shows with SKYSETUNFOLD, feels the reason they get such a good reaction from their fans is because their material is strongly structured and they have great showmanship.

"They are a band you want to watch, but one you can dance to as well," said Hendricks.

"Bob (Brewster) knows how to work a crowd," said Graham Nilsen, infairVerona's bassist.

Nelson has known many of the members of SKYSETUNFOLD before they even became a band. He feels part of their success comes from the fact they are a great bunch of guys.

While their sound may be changing, their personalities are not. They are a humble, lovable band from New Jersey that know how to put on a show. They love what they do and they are in it for the music.

"I don't see us getting huge or anything," Brewster said. "As long as we get to see a lot of places together and form good friendships ... that's all that matters."

All the members of SKYSETUNFOLD see music as a part of their individual futures. However, the fate of the band is not certain even though they remain hopeful.

"Honestly, the thing that works best for us in that we just keep going," said Champa. "We'll keep going as far as we can until it is not fun anymore. We'll stop when we aren't progressing."

But they are still progressing and they are getting a great response from that progression. Their dark, solid sound is making SKYSETUNFOLD a band to be recognized. Their music, like Hunter said, is heavy, but their guitar riffs add a stinging melody and harmony to their songs that is reminiscent of Dragonforce and Between the Buried and Me.

No part in their songs ever sounds like the other. With sporadic and clean tempo changes, heavy breakdowns and their transformation away from hardcore towards metal, SKYSETUNFOLD is shaping up to be on of the stronger little-known metal bands in New Jersey. To contact or listen to SKYSETUNFOLD visit www.myspace.com/skysetunfolds.



Photo courtesy of Noah Blausser

SKYSETUNFOLD consists of John Tatham, Dan Champa, Bob Brewster, Brad Smith and Kyle Corrigan. The group has been together since 2004 and toured from Buffalo, N.Y., all the way to Texas.

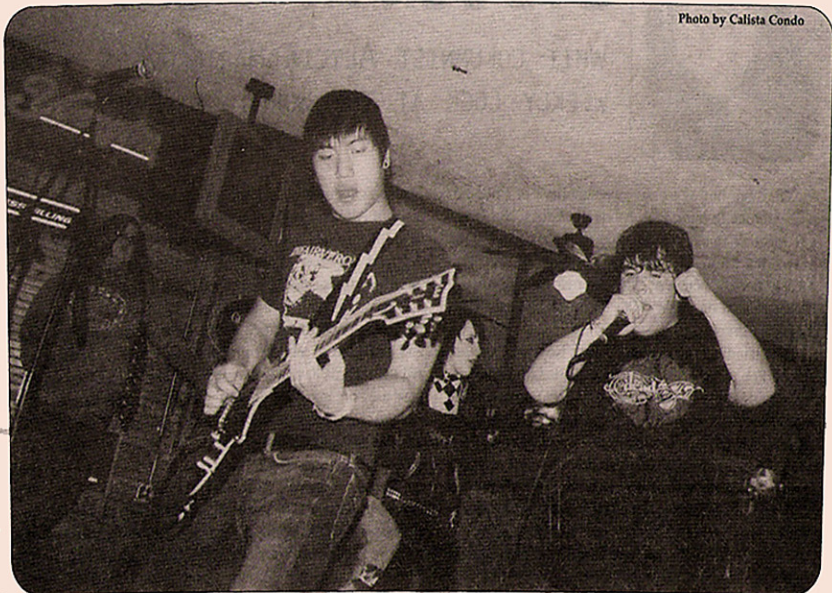


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