

LOST PROPHETS

The Fake Sound of Progress

(Columbia Records)

Modern heavy metal has become so oppressively nihilistic that most modern bands make Black Sabbath seem like a traveling comedy show. So it is refreshing to find among the shouting, tattooed throng a band that at least tries to let the uninitiated inside its armor of hostility and alienation.

The six-piece Welsh band Lost Prophets has all the requisite modern hard-core trappings — crunching guitars, grim and angst-ridden lyrics and the occasional thrash-metal shriek in place of singing. Most of the songs appear to be about defiant scorn for a former friend or lover who has betrayed a trust — a common theme in today's crowded field of angry heavy metallers.

But unlike grim colleagues such as P.O.D. and the Deftones, the Prophets seem willing to chart a mellower course, at least at times. With clear melodies, decipherable (if still cryptic) lyrics, and a singer who sounds more like John Linnell of They Might Be Giants than James Hetfield of Metallica, the Prophets may just be the post-punk metal band for those of us too content or too old to appreciate the delights of the mosh pit. —
Sean Scully

"Now Hear This"

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