

High On Fire, Agnostic Front, Quo Vadis

high on fire

It was one thing to front the famed stoner-metal band Sleep, but with his current outfit, High On Fire, guitarist/vocalist Matt Pike has virtually redefined "heavy." On the trio's third album, Blessed Black Wings, beautifully thunderous

guitar riffs and galloping bass lines billow like the demonic wings pictured on the cover. Meanwhile, DES KENSEL's huge, out-front toms, Big Foot kick, and tribal nuances are a wonder to behold. (Relapse)

New York City hardcore legends Agnostic Front shed plenty of sonic blood on their latest slab, Another Voice. Raging anthems like "Dedication" and the nostalgic "Take Me Back" reveal STEVE GALLO's muscular and efficient

drumming. Production by Zeuss and Hatebreed's Jamey Jasta (who also roars on a track) further ensures that Another Voice isn't just another generic-sounding reason to mosh. (Nuclear Blast)

With their galloping epic-metal,

growling death-metal vocals, and artful progrock (complete with cello, piano, and a full choir), Montreal's Quo Vadis certainly avoids limiting themselves on Defiant Imagination, their fourth full-length. Yet the multifarious approach doesn't detract from a signature sound. And one thing is unmistakable: the dynamic, powerhouse drumming of YANIC BERCIER. This guy can play, as his blinding chop infestations and shifting time signatures on "In Contempt" and "To The Bitter End" demonstrate. (www.quovadis.qc.ca)

