

# **homicide black**

From the kingdom of Hell, a new earth begins, from chaos and turmoil, the new world is released...

Paying homage to their musical roots, Homicide Black conjures images of darkness, despair and salvation (not always in that order), telling epic tales with some songs while delivering a straightforward onslaught of crushing metal with others. The music is truly brought to life during the band's blistering live performances that include tributes to the metal gods designed to engage the audience and introduce metal's rich history to new fans as well as reacquainting it with those who have waited far too long for their music to return to the epic stature it once had.

Each member is a multi-instrumentalist, allowing for a truly organic writing process which is evident in the material on the band's self-titled debut. From the dark imagery that sets the stage for "Spirits of the Dead," "Sinner or Saint" and "Church on the Hill" to the tragedies that unfold in "Well of Souls," Homicide Black brings to life a new dawn of metal and the drive to bring it to the metal-starved masses.

Comprised of three integral elements, each formidable in his own right, combined they form an unstoppable force of crushing metal, the likes the metal world rarely witnesses.

These three forces unite to form Homicide Black, the perfect remedy for a weary, ailing metal world. So unite all ye sinners and saints. Homicide Black has arrived to provide salvation.

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## Fact Sheet

### **Band Members:**

Sean Nestor – Vocals, Guitar  
Jazz Byers – Drums, Vocals  
Mike Loborec – Bass, Vocals

### **Current CDs:**

Homicide Black – Homicide Black  
Homicide Black – Live (EP)

### **Record Label:**

Rattle Clack Entertainment

### **Type of Label:**

Independent

### **Hometown:**

Pittsburgh, PA

### **Style of Music:**

Hard Rock / Metal

### **Sounds Like:**

Black Sabbath, Dio, Pentagram, Mountain, Trouble

### **Website:**

[www.homicideblack.com](http://www.homicideblack.com)

### **Social Media:**

[www.facebook.com/HomicideBlack](http://www.facebook.com/HomicideBlack)  
[www.twitter.com/HomicideBlack](http://www.twitter.com/HomicideBlack)  
[www.reverbnation.com/homicideblack](http://www.reverbnation.com/homicideblack)

### **Booking:**

[band@homicideblack.com](mailto:band@homicideblack.com)

[www.homicideblack.com](http://www.homicideblack.com)

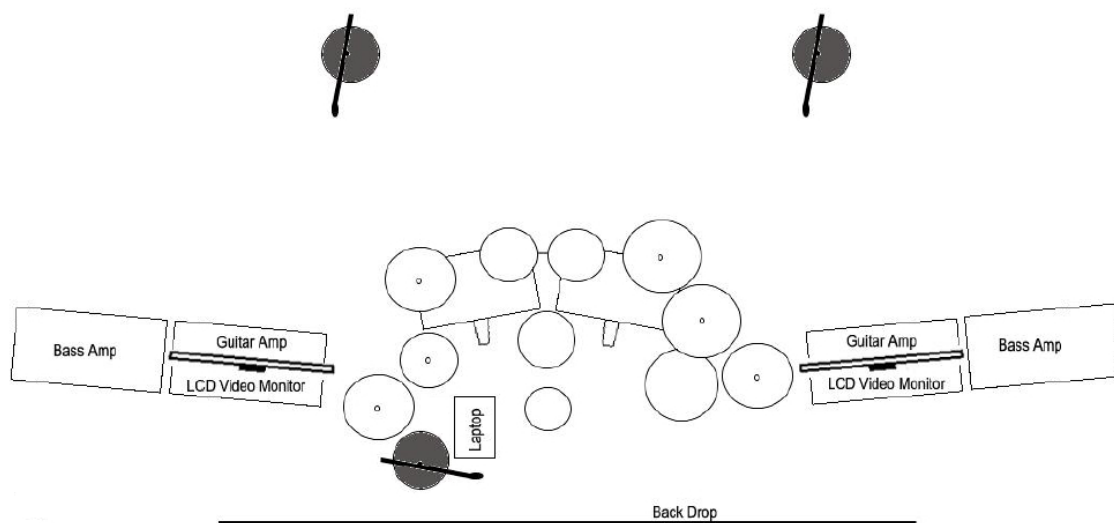
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## Song List

Blind in Texas – W.A.S.P.  
Church on the Hill – Homicide Black  
Fairies Wear Boots – Black Sabbath  
Fight – Homicide Black  
God of Thunder – Kiss  
Hadean – Homicide Black  
Love Gun – Kiss  
L.O.V.E. Machine – W.A.S.P.  
Man on the Silver Mountain – Rainbow  
Mississippi Queen – Mountain  
Never Say Die – Black Sabbath  
N.I.B. – Black Sabbath  
Rockin' in the Free World – Neil Young  
Serpents Dance – Homicide Black  
Sleeping (in the Fire) – W.A.S.P.  
Sinner or Saint – Homicide Black  
Spirits of the Dead – Homicide Black  
Symptom of the Universe – Black Sabbath  
The Damned – The Plasmatics  
War Pigs – Black Sabbath  
Wheel of Time – Homicide Black  
Well of Souls – Homicide Black

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## Stage Plot



- 3 - Vocal Microphones - Booms on all 3
- 1 - Bass Amp - Direct Box
- 1 - Guitar Amp - Shure 57
- 1 - Drum Set - Kick (stage right only), Snare, (up to) 5 Toms, Cymbals
- 1 - XLR input for laptop (beside drum throne)

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CD Reviews

From *Danger Dog Music Reviews*



## Homicide Black: Homicide Black

**Heavy Metal 3.5/5.0**

by Craig Hartranft, 07.31.2012

Homicide Black's debut CD arrived with a business card slipped under the plastic shrink wrap. Nothing unusual about that, I thought. Then I looked a little closer. Underneath band name there's a statement, 'Salvation for an ailing metal world.' Really? That's a bold statement from this Pittsburgh power trio.

One clue to Homicide Black's influences and sound comes from the one cover song on the album, Black Sabbath's Fairies Were Boots. I always liked the song and the band does a decent job with it. This debut follows in that vein of traditional heavy metal, sometimes with touch of doom metal.

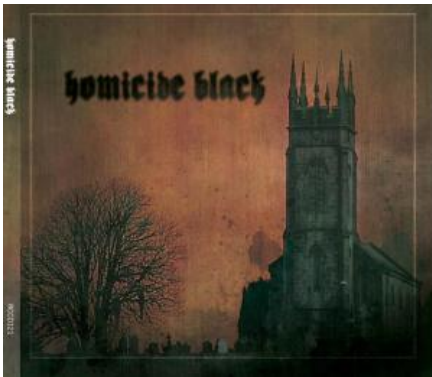
It takes a few songs to get into this album. The first three songs are rather slow and brooding. The same could be said for The Tower, but it rebounds with some ripping guitar work midway through. Then Church on the Hill almost feels like a full on rocker, but also contains an interesting near choral vocal arrangement. It's likely the best song here. From here you can skip to the end for the classic metal sounds of Wheel of Time and Well of Souls, an interesting mixture of Sabbath, Iron Maiden, and very early Rainbow. The production seemed a little dodgy across the album, maybe a bit flat, but this somehow adds to the band's DIY charm.

Pennsylvania seems to be the breeding ground for traditional heavy metal bands as of late. Add Homicide Black as another with dead aim on the classic metal style. Easily recommended.

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CD Reviews

From *The Watchful Eye of Shawn Crosby*



## **HOMICIDE BLACK....My review and thoughts**

January 16, 2013

By Shawn Crosby

I decided to review a band today. I was inspired by their dedication to their craft, realism in their music and in general, their attitude to succeed and spread their music across the globe. When I write, I speak of many things, many topics, and many ideas. When collecting my thoughts upon the large landscapes of the mind, I am steadfast in my hope of enlisting the use of brevity when it all spills back onto the canvas of the once white empty screen....something light, something simple. Letters and numbers form a bond within the screen. Sentences are born, claims made, ideas are shared and housed. Standing tall menacing a keyboard and some ideas, I've no intention of changing the world. It was never my thing. I am more of a Wednesday morning idealist, who lost his best idea on a late Friday afternoon...but alas...it is Midweek, and I don't drink coffee. The number of people who have started to read my writings, complaints, rants and so on, have climbed steadily since my articles in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. I was never really searching for any upward mobility with my writing. No plan of market penetration or the like. I write about things worth reading. They are my ideas and opinions...I share them. Keep the ones that you like, give away those you don't and share what you can. With that said, I have decided to write about a band, review their cd. I refrain from using the term local band. I wish not to give them impression that this band hangs around town and then lists open mic performances on their ReverbNation page as actual clubs played. Don't laugh. If you have been in bands and played in Pittsburgh for the last few years, you know that this happens more than not. Let me also not give them impression that they are a regular weekend band who has a ton of friends come, and then proceeds

to play cover tunes all night as a substitute for the jukebox (perhaps I should have said iPod hooked up to the club sound system...being 40 has its moments). Lastly, I do not want to give the impression that they are a "sometimes band". A band who are weekend warriors, play here and there once in a while, play so many cover-tunes that if ASCAP were Interpol, they would be on the most wanted list. The difference between this band and other bands in Pittsburgh right now, is the difference between a Marine knee deep in real combat, and the 300 pound gentleman pressed into a couch with a headset on playing call of duty. I might even add that this man may make mention of going to the gym. I think you get my point. You may wonder what gives me the right to stake such claims, to anger all the 300 pound men on their couches (in reality, they are busy gaming and not reading this anyway). I have played, performed, still do, have songs sitting in Nashville as we speak...I have a good idea on this topic.

Let us discuss the band HOMICIDE BLACK, and then their self-titled debut "HOMICIDE BLACK". The blurb with the CD states "Classic metal with a fresh coat of paint, for those who like bands like Black Sabbath, Dio, and similar artists." I will tell you straight that I do not in fact fancy the musical offerings of Black Sabbath, Dio, or similar artists...not even a little bit. I truly cannot stand it. In my youth playing in metal bands, I was never influenced by such artists, it was never my thing. Obviously it was the thing of many. I am here writing, and Ozzy is wealthy. So why in the world did I ever listen to HOMICIDE BLACK? Notice I keep putting the name in caps. It is along the lines of what the band does themselves as far as promoting, but I will get to that. For the most part, I listened because they are persistent in getting people to notice them. This can be a good thing...or a bad thing. For bands that cannot back up the hype, it becomes an issue real, and I end up having to remove them from my friends list because I can take no more lunacy on their part. HOMICIDE BLACK can back up their talents by all means. The band was the brainchild of Sean Nestor and Jazz "Jim Byers". It is interesting that I owned a tape (yes I am 40) from the band Sunset Strip that Sean and Jazz were members of years ago. My band played some shows with them, and I was always impressed. Jazz, I have known since I was 15 years old. Taught me a lot about recording and... I in fact still have demos that he and I did when I was 15 (hoping HOMICIDE BLACK makes it big...may be worth some cash!). When I think of Sean, I remember a guy with blonde hair handing out flyers at Century III Mall. We all handed flyers out at that mall at some point in those days. When I think of Jazz, I remember his band Septembers Child leaving Pittsburgh and going national. Fast forward all these years and Sean no longer has blonde hair, Jazz is not playing bass, singing or playing guitar...in fact he is the drummer. Things change in time. One thing that has not changed is the talent of these individuals. Sean actually sounds stronger in his vocals than he did years ago. A quick watch of a Sunset Strip reunion gig on youtube showed me that first hand. Jazz adds thunder behind the kit in a way that is truly his own. Lays the foundation for the assault. One day I decided to take a listen to this band. I watched the formation on facebook, the status updates of new things to come, the next great band and so on....it was all true.

Very seldom is that ever the case. As I mentioned before, I am not a fan of the bands that HOMICIDE BLACK lists as influences. This brings me to a great point about them. There are so many bands who list influences, and once you hear the band you realize it was not influence at all...they were a carbon copy. It is ok to have influences, as long as you do not sound like a tribute band to your own influences.

. I listened to "CHURCH ON THE HILL" and was amazed. My first thought was "I had no idea Sean could shred on a guitar at all" and my second thought was "this is really good". The honesty and passion came in like a brick you throw thru a neighbors window when you 12 (ok maybe you didn't do that...cut me a break..I grew up in Monessen). The vocals are powerful, guitars hammering and the drums just sweeping across the backdrop of this mammoth wall of sound. By the end of that song I wondered if it would be the only good song, the only one I would like. I decided to check out "SINNER OR SAINT". From the first notes on the guitar it puts you in a trancelike state. Awaiting the drums to come in, I realized this was another winner. In the end I became an actual fan. I suggest, at the very least...you take a listen to these guys. I will have links at the bottom. I won't waste your time doing a track by track review, and I will tell you why. No matter what I read about HOMICIDE BLACK, I may have never given them another thought...listening is what changed me and it is what will make you a believer of my words. Coming out of the gate in September of 2011 for live shows in the area, the band saw themselves killing shows in Atlanta by July of 2012...impressive by any standards. They are now opening for national acts. So....how do you find them? I am glad you asked (on a side-note, there is a live EP as well). In closing I will admit their Sabbath cover was not that bad at all...I kind of enjoyed it.



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CD Reviews  
From *Sea of Tranquility*



From the sleeve art of Homicide Black's self-titled debut, you might be led to think they're one of the many new bands in the still up-and-coming United States black metal (USBM) scene, what with the decrepit church and ominous orange sky that envelops it like a growing flame. Surprisingly, though, they're just the opposite, based both on their traditional metal sonic and the cynical view of metal they espouse. According to the band, metal has—until their appearance, of course—lacked "the epic stature it once had," due in large part to the "musical wasteland" that is metal current. The goal of Homicide Black is to thus "revive the generation that was left for dead."

Still, despite the crotchety old man apocalyptic rhetoric of their press materials, Homicide Black clearly love and are devoted to the cause of traditional metal, which they perform with gusto on this record. Fans of Iron Maiden, Dio, and Black Sabbath will have a field day with this one; while groups like Dawnbringer and Hammers of Misfortune are of much higher caliber as far as traditional styles are concerned, *Homicide Black* is a thoroughly fun affair, chock full of galloping riffs, shred-heavy solos, and plenty of macabre imagery. The vocals here are also worth noting; though it's easy for any singer labeled "operatic" to give in to very un-metal showboating, the vocals here are likely to appease any fans of Ronnie Dio or Bruce Dickinson, and they are performed without excessiveness or tired pastiche.

So while Homicide Black's conservative view of the way metal is may be groan-worthy, their music certainly isn't; if anything, it's how successful they are at traditional metal that proves it never died in the first place.

**Added:** January 11th 2013 **Reviewer:** Brice Ezell **Score:** ★★★★★