



HAWAII'S GOTH-METAL BAND ON THE RISE... biographies

SANDY "STORM" ESSMAN - VOCALS

A classically trained singer with a versatile background in the music business, Sandy is a vocal powerhouse and front-woman extraordinaire. Before co-founding STORM, Sandy fronted THE SULTANS and had earlier stints as a back-up vocalist with SWEET TALK. In 2011 she performed with John Ford Coley, Benny Mardones, and Ambrosia's Joe Puerta in the Love Rocks show at Hawaii Theater. As an artist who feels at home with a wide spectrum of musical styles, she balances her appetite for dark heavy rhythms by appearing on Hawaiian music projects, Na Leo O Hou Hawaii and Love Songs in Paradise among them. Now, her lifelong dedication to her craft is focused solely on breaking new ground in Hawaii's goth-metal scene.

GERARD GONSALVES – DRUMS

A double-bass master and metal veteran of the drums, Gerard achieved worldwide acclaim in AARONSROD, and went on to join Hawaii rock and metal legends SLAK ALICE and CALAMITY JAYNE. Through the years his bands have shared the stage with the genre's top acts, including OZZY OZBOURNE, JUDAS PRIEST, and WARRANT. In 2010, Gerard sat at the kit for Paul Shortino, formerly of QUIET RIOT and ROUGH CUTT fame, for a Honolulu performance.

DARREN SOLIVEN - BASS

Darren has been a bass guitarist since 1985, and was inspired by his childhood hero, Gene Simmons, to pick up the instrument. He has played in numerous bands throughout his career, including: KILLSWITCH, SURF PSYCHO SEXY, and CHAMPIONS OF TERMINAL, but considers STORM the band he was always meant to be in. Darren's influences range from Godzilla to Muhammad Ali, but lists Steve Harris, Cliff Burton, and Cronos (from metal legends VENOM) as favorite bass players.

JASE LEFEBVRE – GUITAR

Jase has been honing his craft from his early teens, inspired by the likes of GUNS N' ROSES and BRYAN ADAMS. Drawn to the guitar, he defied his grandmother and bought an old classical guitar from his neighbor at the age of 13. He quickly developed his chops in numerous punk, hardcore, and progressive metal bands, gaining an appreciation for both abrasiveness and accuracy. He landed his first professional gig touring the Midwest with Classic Rock and Top 40 cover bands by the age of 20. His screaming, killer licks provide the razor-wire edge to STORM's darkly lush melodies.

ERIC BARKER - KEYBOARDS

Descending from the frozen wastes of the Alaskan arctic, Eric played with a host of progrock, fusion jazz, and metal bands, most recently touring the American South with progressive Celtic rock group EEL HOUSE. He earned a degree in electronic music and composition from Oberlin Conservatory where he developed a passion for cutting-edge synthesizer programming and performance. Renowned for his unapologetically aggressive keyboard approach, Eric provides STORM with high-voltage leads and immense sonic textures.

The alchemy of these five elements come together on their debut album "Storm's A' Brewing", conjuring up a visceral, alluring sound that is sure to touch the blackest corners of your soul, and seduce the savage beast within your heart.

Surrender to the dark side of Paradise...