

THE CRYING SPELL

WHAT: Seattle hard-rock band featuring Len Hotrum (lead vocals, guitars), Yanni "Johnny" Bacolas (bass), Chase Culp (drums) and Eric Snyder (guitars, vocals). The band came together about two years ago while members were taking breaks from other groups.

SOUND: Melodic, hard-driving rock 'n' roll with strong hooks and soaring vocals. "Tattooed Girl," "Suicide Woman," "Prayers" and other songs are infectious and powerful, drawing comparisons to such bands as the Bravery and Muse, as well as Depeche Mode, Velvet Revolver and even Cheap Trick.

QUOTE: "I think we have a very different sound from what's on the radio now, a hybrid of many styles," Hotrum says. "We don't follow anyone's formula – it's totally our own, but it's still very radio (friendly), and I think it's a fresh sound."

RELEASE: "Through Hell to Heaven I" (released July 15 on iTunes). The album is the first of a "trilogy" of EPs that followed a "songwriting frenzy" that resulted in 33 songs. The producer of the album was Kelly Gray, who has worked with Queensryche, Candlebox, Three Doors Down, Brother Kane and other bands.

WHERE TO LISTEN: myspace.com/thecryingspell



and thecryingspell.com.

FUN FACTS: Hotrum and Culp are also members of Seattle hard-rock band Point One (Point1music.com), while Bacolas and Snyder perform with Seattle's Second Coming (Secondcomingmusic.com).

NEXT SHOW: Friday at 8 p.m. at The Old Firehouse, 16510 N.E 79th St., Redmond. Sharing the bill are Man Down Medic and Keith Ledger. All ages. Tickets: \$8. Information: 425-556-2370 or www.theoldfirehouse.org.

– Gene Stout