

# evergreen

[DEMO REVIEW]

9 times out of 10, you can tell what a band is gonna sound like just by looking at their name.

Wheatus? Geek rock.

Godspeed You Black Emperor!? Post-rock.

The Gents / Josephine / Anything Adie's ever worn on a t-shirt? Indie.

Risactonia? Metal.

Eskimo Blonde? Shite.

Evergreen? College rock. Except they're not, are they? If I had to list my favourite bands librarically (Yes it is a word, I just invented it), then somewhere in there you would find the following entries:

MACHINE, Rage Against The

PARK, Linkin

And if I had to review **Evergreen's** demo, I would say *'Yes please!'* Because when they're at their best, Evergreen are nicer than a Sizzler Special. (Someone actually told me that if you order a Chilli Sizzler, you'll get absolutely everything on it. I think Chilli may be some kind of codeword; *'Chilli Sizzler please, I'll take half a score.'* *'Certainly, that's £18.10.'*)

Visually, Evergreen are an interesting mixture of cultures, which is reflected in their music, ranging from Bends-era Radiohead through to funk, with some Zach De La Rocha in-between. *Blasphemy*, the first track off their demo goes for the middle option, and does a damn good job of it as well. No one in Aberdeen can rap as well as Bill, Evergreen's frontman. (That may not sound like much of a compliment, but believe me, there are some great hip-hop acts emerging from the Northfield ghetto at the moment.) The other really good thing about Evergreen is Ian (Iain?), their little guitarist. If Bill is the Sizzler, Ian is the Chilli on top. A nice, spicy mixture of Johnny

Greenwood and Tom Morello with some blues soloing for decorative effect. The only problem with *Blasphemy* is that lyrically it's a lot to swallow, tending towards (deep breath) Christian Rock. I'm not entirely sure if this song is pro-God, anti-God or atheist, but one thing's for sure - there's a major religious theme going on here. The Church gets name-checked five times in one verse - that's more than a vicar would use in an entire sermon! I'm starting to feel guilty now for reviewing this on the Sabbath. Oh fuck it, it doesn't matter - if all Christian Rock sounds this good then I'm already converted.

*Reaper*, the other song on the Evergreen demo, is also good (or is that god?) but in a darker kind of way. I'm not too keen on the second voice, the scary one. It reminds me of Pete trying to sing backing vocals. And what's this? *'I drip into a tissue and soon I'm gonna kill you.'* How yukky, I don't think the Almighty would be very pleased to hear that - do your parents know about this? Just as it threatens to degenerate into Wimpy territory, however, the chorus arrives. Very catchy. Very Linkin Park. And you knew I was gonna mention them eventually, didn't you?

So there you have it; two sizzling slices of fast food, available with 20% discount when you use your Snapfax. To order Evergreen's demo, go to [www.evergreen.alt.cx](http://www.evergreen.alt.cx) and quote the special code 'Chilli'. If you like your burgers flame-grilled then be sure to - ahem - ketchup with this band as soon as possible. Sorry.

Reviewed by Kai Sirius.