



WITH A NEW
ALBUM OUT AND
THE ORIGINAL
GROUP BACK
TOGETHER, THIS
ROCK BAND IS
MAKING A STOP
IN SIOUX FALLS
TO SHOW A
SOFTER SIDE

STORY BY **JAY KIRSCHENMANN**
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Atlanta-based rock band Sevendust plays Sioux Falls on Sunday with original guitarist and singer Clint Lowery, back after several years. But you won't hear Lowery playing on

the band's new CD release, "Sevendust VII: Hope & Sorrow." It was made before Lowery returned.

Former guitarist Soany Mayo plays on the April 1 release. It also features Chris Daughtry of "American Idol" fame on vocals on "The Past."

A couple days after the CD release, the band announced that Lowery quit as guitarist for Dark New Day and returned to

the Sevendust lineup in place of Mayo. Lowery is touring with the group for the first time in years.

Sunday's show at the Ramkota Exhibit Hall starts at 7 p.m., with opening bands Black Stone Cherry, Neverset and Over-scene.

The change back to all-original members is good, lead singer Lajon Witherspoon says.

"It's great. It's so exciting, we don't even sleep well at night because the energy is so strong," Witherspoon says by phone.

"Clint is the original player, so the original band is back, and we're loving it," he

Argus Leader

Date:	Thursday, May 08, 2008
Location:	SIOUX FALLS, SD
Circulation (DMA):	48,302 (115)
Type (Frequency):	Newspaper (D)
Page:	14D,15D
Keyword:	Sevendust

says. "We're rockin' again."

They're already working on new material for the next release. Lowery was writer, singer and guitarist with the band from 1997 to 2004.

Mayo was a member from 2005 through March of this year.

Today's Sevendust is Witherspoon and Lowery, with John Connolly on guitar and vocals, Vinnie Hornsby on bass and Morgan Rose on drums and vocals.

A sweeter sound

Witherspoon also had a bit more to say. **Question:** The new album has some

soft stuff on it, at least for a band labeled an "alternative metal band," almost able to cross over to mainstream Top 40. Does that bother you?

Answer: I have no problem with that – I'm too old to be whatever everyone else wants us to be. We're not trying to be the heaviest band around, we just want to stick around. Music is music, so we're not afraid to show

our emotions in the music. That's why I think we're going to be able to stay around

for a while.

Q: The track "Hope" has a beautiful, almost classical, acoustic piano introduction. Is that a big change for you guys?

A: We were a lot heavier in the old days. I think this album definitely is more mature.

Q: How did the collaboration with Chris Daughtry come about? Will that song be released as a single?

A: We've known Chris for a while. He's just a buddy we asked to come down to

the studio and drink some cold beers, and we said, "Hey, we have a song here we can work on," and he said "hell yeah." He's been standing in with the band for a long time, but his people won't let us release that song as a single.

Q: There are industrial machine noises that open the new album, and are heard between tracks, kind of like Pink Floyd's "Wish You Were Here" album. Why did you do that?

A: We wanted the album to kind of flow the whole way through, so it's kind of like it's one long groove. I still call them albums – a collection of songs – because

I'm old school. I'm from the '70s. But I think it makes it all one story being told all the way through.

Q: You guys were called Crawlspace back in 1994. Why the name change?

A: Some guy with an acoustic guitar on the West Coast claimed rights to the name. But the Crawlspace name wouldn't fit us now, anyway. We were younger and more angry back then.

Q: You have such a rich, smooth, melodic voice on lead vocals, but then Morgan Rose comes in here and there with his one-pitch screaming. Do you do some of the screaming, too?

A: I don't like to do all that screaming, man. I like to be a singer. I like melody and song. It's more memorable if you sing it, not scream it. But where we did include that, it does lay out all those emotions and energy in the song.

Q: When is the new album coming out with the newly reunited band?

A: Real soon. I think if the music is in you, and you have the means to do it, you better get working on it and get it out there.

That's what we're doing.

Reach Jay Kirschenmann at 331-2312.

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Atlanta rock band Sevendust, with openers Black Stone Cherry, Neverset and Overscene

WHEN: 7 p.m. Sunday

WHERE: Ramkota Exhibit Hall

TICKETS: \$23 advance, \$25 day of show, at Ernie November (41st Street), charge by phone 767-0264 or online at www.pepperentertainment.com

ONLINE: www.sevendust.info, www.myspace.com/sevendust, www.siouxempirelive.com

FROM LEFT: Morgan Rose, John Connolly, Lajon Witherspoon, Vince Hornsby and Clint Lowery.

COURTESY PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ANGELA PARR/INK