

Today I'll be reviewing 'Voice of the Cult' by guitarist and band leader Chastain. First up, I thought the singer was a man! She really does have an exceptionally manly voice. Even if I knew her name, believe it or not, that would offer me no clues. She calls herself 'Leather Leone!' Is leather masculine or feminine?? Leather jackets are manly, but what about leather handbags?? What about both combined? I wonder how people would react to me if I walked down the street wearing a leather jacket and carrying a leather handbag, as I shouted the album lyric 'We are the voice of the cult!' They'd probably feel exceptionally troubled. Especially when I follow those lyrics with 'We are crusaders, tonight'. A good reason to call the police. As Chastain is a surname, the band leader's gender is ambiguous, too. That is until you find out he's called David. However, if you have a confusing auntie like I have (she's called Chris), you may wonder what other names can be for either sex. Yes, it's short for Christine, but could David ever be short for Davidina? You just don't know. Chastain's middle name is 'Taylor' and that's a unisex name, too. I'm wondering why this band place so much importance on being vague. As LYRICS are usually meant to be vague, maybe that confused the band. If that's the case, why name the band after the leader of the group? That's a very simple and clear thing to do. The musicians really are a mystery wrapped in an enigma.

Secondly, as a young child I always wondered what would happen to heavy metal musicians as they got older and 'matured'. Now I know - basically nothing changes about them, they stay the same. Chastain is rocking out to this day, as are countless other artists such as the guys from Iron Maiden, Judas Priest, etc. etc. You could appreciate the consistency, but you could also be disappointed. Here's an analogy I worked very hard on: Gobstoppers that change colour are often more interesting than uni-coloured sweets, right? So that means it's better if people change too, as it makes them more interesting? Ah, but you never see gobstoppers changing colour as they're in your mouth, so why does it matter? Similarly, you never really see famous people, do you? THAT'S wisdom for you! Yes! High five! I'm wondering if Chastain would like to be compared to a gobstopper. Gobstoppers are hard, and I'm sure all metal musicians want to be hard. But sweet at the same time? More masculine and feminine characteristics for you. To put it as simply and as efficiently as possible, here's an equation I've made up: Chastain = Gobstopper. As I haven't done maths for a very, very long time, I don't know if that's a real equation, (it's 50/50) but I do think it's clear at least.

Drummer Ken Mary has names of both genders, too. Just saying. Ok, now I'll move on. A reviewer said the album was 'laughable as a band recording'! Woah there! Sure tracks such as 'Soldiers of the Flame' sound way too puny to take on whole armies (what's a flame going to do against a battalion of tanks, Apache helicopters, etc.? Does Chastain mean a single lighter?), but lots of songs have dumb lyrics, particularly if they have rhymes that are used just for the sake of it. I'm not claiming to know anything about lyric writing at all other than dumb rhymes don't sound good, but interestingly, a deep sounding poem can be made out of the VotC album tracks in the order they appear. Check this out: 'The voice of the cult, live hard. Chains of love, share yourself with me. Fortune teller, child of evermore, soldiers of the flame, evil for evil, take me home.' God knows what it means, but I genuinely believe that sounds insightful. Sure in other reviews, I have got material out of at least some track titles, but never have I just listed the tracks in order, and that makes Chastain special. I enjoyed the album and think it was judged very harshly. So it gets a super

respectable 8.75/10! Bye!