Today, I'll be reviewing Darren Housholder's self-titled debut album! Allmusic.com has some pretty strong views, giving it 1 and a half stars. To put that into context, that's the score I gave to a completely atonal band who only played in time for about 30 seconds in the whole album. Don't worry, I have some strong views as well, but in the other direction! I like it! I think at least part of the problem is the album begins with the most dreary chord progression imaginable. To make an analogy, it's like an author beginning a novel like 'It was a dark and stormy night. Or was it a stormy day? Who cares? I hate both scenarios, kill me now.' Of course it's going to have a lasting impression. The so called 'reviewer' also said Darren is just another 'thousand note per second' guitarist, which is simply untrue. The world record is a little under 50 notes per second and even I admit that's too far and it's not real music to people, at least. (As some flies only live a day, I wonder if such creatures would like to hear music that fast, though. Maybe to them it would seem slow??) So yeah, a thousand notes a second? Hats off to you, but Allmusic certainly won't appreciate you. I wonder how many notes Yngwie Malmsteen has played in his life, as he's the kind of person who'd wrongly be described as a thousand note per second guitarist, as well. Surprise, surprise, there is 'no exact count' (it's ok, I wasn't hoping for one), but another search has said something that I think is rather interesting. Are you ready? Here goes: A.I. said he's roughly played 1.76 billion notes in his lifetime!

That's less than a quarter of the world's population. Having the population compared to Yngwie's notes, I'm starting to wonder if there are too many people on Earth. My main concern is oil running out and not only that, there is a whole political movement trying to ban it! Sounds like everything is going to Hell, to me. I was thinking if he did play the exact same amount of notes as Earth's population, there could be a theory going round that for whatever reason, Yngwie's notes have something to do with the planet's birth and death rate. A weird theory I know, but some people are mentally ill. People would be like 'We need to keep Yngwie alive at all costs, because if he stops playing notes, there will be no more people!' It would probably lead to narcissism. I've previously pointed out how guitarist Joe Stump sounds more or less exactly the same as Yngwie, and Stump has an album called 'Speed Metal Messiah'. (Or speed metal chosen one). As the guitarists are so similar, that implies Yngwie could well think of himself as the messiah too, at least in certain circumstances. Well, I say it would lead to narcissism, if someone told me that my guitar playing either killed people or produced babies, I'd feel creeped out and scared. God knows how many notes the fastest guitarist in the world has played, that being Tiago Della Vega. Dammit, A.I. doesn't know! You may think to yourself that you don't care, but again, it could be important. You know when I said there were mentally ill people out there? That includes me.

Now let's talk about Darren, again! I've previously pointed out that he's surely the only person on Earth who can make the once cheerful major scale sound depressing, and I do mean that literally because I've tried. (Just now). That could be the real reason Allmusic doesn't like him. The ultimate party pooper. I guess the exact opposite of him is Joe Satriani, who can make really dark sounding scales sound cool and mysterious which is arguably a bigger skill. But you know what? I like both guitarists! I probably wouldn't want them to share a stage and trade solos (G3-style) because it would be weird, it's actually what made my dream band of Steve Vai, Chino Moreno and Joey Jordison so strange. I'm picturing flashy solos, sex dungeon music and blast beats all at the same time, but if the two guitarists were to

play gigs one after another, that should be fine. Personally, I'd have Darren on and THEN Joe, again because the former guitarist would just put the audience on a downer if he ended things. But a downer and then a feel-good artist? It's like being told Christmas is over and you'll be spending the day on your own, and then getting told you'll actually be spending Christmas with the best BMX ever - great! However, now I'm older, I'd probably prefer whisky and thick socks. The first gift is genuinely pretty good, the second eliminates the risk of toes sticking out of damaged thin socks that are too weak, which is genuinely one of the most annoying feelings I can think of. Again, good Christmas. And bye! (Oh yes, the album gets 9.5/10! Just ignore Allmusic, Darren!