

AUGUST BURNS RED

Matt Greiner *drums* **Dustin Davidson** *bass* **Brent Rambler** *guitar* **JB Brubaker** *guitar* **Jake Luhrs** *vocals*

There are a galaxy's worth of metal bands active today. But stare at all of those stars long enough and some lines start to form; everything starts to take shape. The *Constellations* begin to bloom.

Just two years ago, Lancaster, PA's **AUGUST BURNS RED** were, to the naked eye, just another young band jockeying for position in the modern metal scene. Then came *Messengers*, the band's 2007 full-length release for Solid State Records, and a new frontrunner emerged. Without hype, devoid of any smoke and mirrors, the album debuted at #81 on the Billboard charts, going on to ever-so-quietly sell more than 80,000 copies. Fueled only by the honesty and dynamism of the music, fans multiplied exponentially, driving **ABR's** MySpace plays well past the 17 million mark and flocking to the band's 2008 headlining tour – which included sold-out venues across the country.

Meanwhile, **AUGUST BURNS RED** kept their heads down, conquering fans at Warped Tour, on the Take Action tour and at destinations from Dubai to Dallas, and increased their profile through placement of their beloved take on "Carol of the Bells" on the movie trailer for "The Spirit." The band also packed up their Phillies T-shirts and ever-present flip-flops and headed overseas for a tour of 12 countries throughout the UK and Europe. The star was shining bright. "It's extremely encouraging to see your band growing," says guitarist and primary songwriter JB Brubaker with characteristic modesty. "It helps keep you motivated and forces you to set the bar higher so that you can continue to grow and put out the best music you're capable of writing."

To that end – the band returned to the studio this past February to record its hotly anticipated follow-up with lauded producer Jason Suecof (SEVENDUST, ALL THAT REMAINS, TRIVIUM). Fans flocked to the band's in-studio Stickam site by the tens of thousands to observe the band recording the album in real time. The result was *Constellations*, the third full-length offering from **AUGUST BURNS RED**, set for release on July 14. A crushing metal tour de force, the album pushes **ABR's** trademark aural blitz into directions previously unexplored by the band. "We spread our creative wings a bit on *Constellations*," says JB. "But I can say for sure that this record will definitely be as unrelenting as our previous ones." Accenting the blistering guitar work and syncopated breakdowns that **AUGUST BURNS RED** fans have grown to love are dynamics previously unexplored by the band. *Constellations* features more diverse tempos and cohesive song compositions than on previous **ABR** records, as well as the band's maiden voyage to the land of guitar solos.

"We've managed to push ourselves as musicians, as lyricists and performers," says drummer Matt Greiner. "As a whole, I feel like we're expanding, reinterpreting and refining our sound." That kind of sonic wanderlust has pushed **AUGUST BURNS RED** since the members first united in 2003 while still in high school. Armed with fearless innovation, uncanny technical ability and an innate near-classical songwriting style, the band started turning heads immediately upon the release of its 2005 Solid State debut, *Thrill Seeker*. The band's 2007 sleeper hit, *Messengers*, minted **ABR** as one of the pacesetters of the next generation of metal bands. The band has already proven to be the type that gets kids to put down *Guitar Hero* and pick up an actual guitar – look no further than the number of bands on MySpace that list **ABR** as an influence. With *Constellations*, that swelling army of fans will make sure that there's a racket from day one. "I am probably as excited for *Constellations* to come out as our most diehard fans," Brubaker exclaims. "I'd like to think there is something for everyone on the new album."

Already one of the year's most anticipated metal albums, *Constellations* will make good on the promise of the past two years, and will serve as proof-positive that **AUGUST BURNS RED's** success is no mere solar flare-up. This supernova's here to stay.



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