

Megan Bouchard 

“Pray For The Wicked”

Panic! At the Disco’s new album rocks

Panic! At the Disco’s (PIATD) sixth album, “Pray for the Wicked,” raised enthusiasm among fans. The album was publicized on March 21, 2018 by Brendon Urie (lead singer) and released June 22, 2018. When announcing the release, Urie wrote in a letter on Facebook: “I pray for all the wicked people doing wicked things and for all the good people doing good things every day. I pray that my family stays safe while I’m on the road trying to share an incomparable experience with a million different friends. I pray, but not to anyone specifically. More to myself, pleading to stay positive and loving and open-minded. I meditate on what concerns me. The things I enjoy. The changes I want to see in the world. The people who lift me up. The people who bring me down. I pray. So here’s a few more prayers from me and my friends. I pray you enjoy it.”

PIATD became best known for their upbeat rock and early song “I Write Sins Not Tragedies,” but vocalist Brendon Urie’s new solo album “Pray for the Wicked,” is a brave venture into pop rock.

The original band varied in genre – some consider it punk rock, alternative rock or pop rock. Urie has a variety of vocals and an ability to emote Broadway-style and is meshed well with the rest of the band’s talents and melodies. The band started posting online demos and writing Blink-182 covers, which caught the eye from a like-minded band, Fall Out Boy (FOB). Pete Wentz, FOB’s bassist, signed PIATD to his record label, and they still share a management company.

Urie is now the sole survivor and only full-time member of the original band founded in high school – no one suspected that Urie would finally achieve his biggest commercial breakthrough on their fifth album, “Death of a Bachelor.” However,

the album was an astonishing hit, selling 190,000 copies in the first week of its release and bringing PIATD their first No. 1 album ever.

Just when fans thought PIATD couldn’t possibly follow-up the impressive release of “Death of a Bachelor,” Urie surprises fans with the release of “Pray For The Wicked” and changes the game once more. Naturally, the release of this album will be accompanied by many who want to argue that this doesn’t sound like the old PIATD. In several ways, that’s true. “Pray For The Wicked” sounds nothing like their older albums – “A Fever You Can’t Sweat Out” and “Vices & Virtues,” or even their fifth album release, “Death of a Bachelor,” and it wouldn’t be PIATD if it did. Instead, “Pray For The Wicked” is marking the

new era for PIATD becoming influenced by Broadway.

“Pray for the Wicked” is a major success, taking off with the three massive tracks “High Hopes,” “Say Amen (Saturday Night),” and “King of the Clouds” exploding all over the radio, followed up by “Dying in LA.”

By far the most emotional song is “Dying in LA.” Back in 2015 the release of “The Death of a Bachelor” track “LA Devotee,” is about being in love with the city of Los Angeles and chasing success. Urie turns the table in his

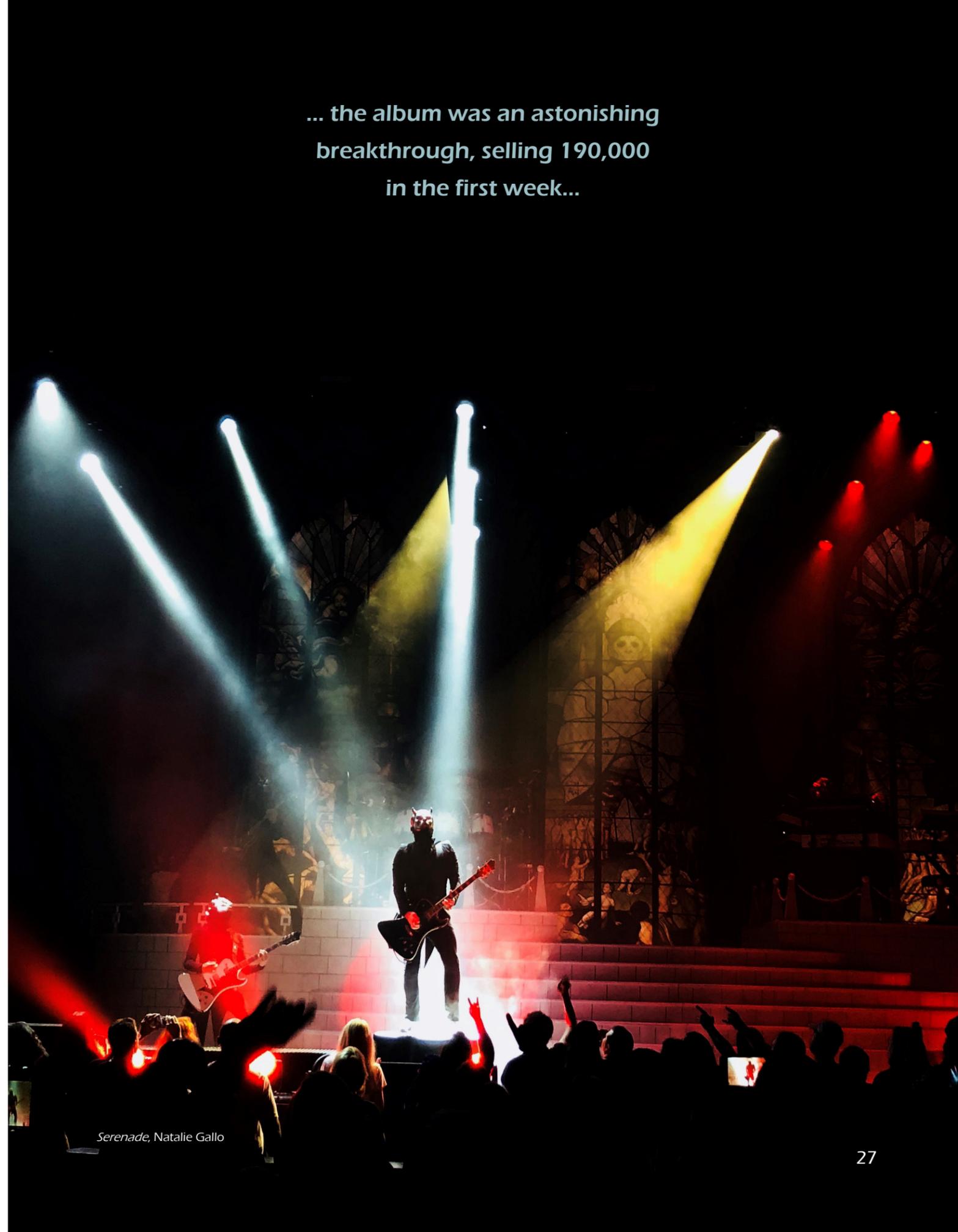
ballad “Dying in LA,” which is the last song on the album “Pray for the Wicked.”

This final track is about someone who journeys to the California city because of its indulging beauty and opportunities only to be broken by his past chances and possibilities and when success proves evasive.

“Pray for the Wicked” blew away many fans, and was overall an outstanding album. The songs had good vocals and lyrics and also had a good beat. PIATD’s songs connect with listeners and tell stories written from the heart.

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Serenade, Natalie Gallo