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Autumn of the Seraphs

PINBACK

Producer(s): Pinback

Label: Touch & Go

The unassuming lads in Pinback earned some TV airtime and commercial radio airplay for songs from 2004's masterwork "Summer in Abaddon," but there are no overt lunges for the mainstream on their fourth full-length. If anything, save for the frenetic opener "From Nothing to Nowhere," "Autumn" is noticeably less immediate than its predecessor. But it's also less inward-looking, particularly on the downright jolly "Good to Sea," a perfect blend of vintage synth beeps, sturdy basslines and rhythmic guitar figures that keep creeping in and out of the mix, and the "Message in a Bottle"-style riff and gleeful lyrics of "Blue Harvest" ("Goodie for me, my favorite part"). Several songs near the end go on too long, content to just keep repeating riffs over and over. Still, when "Autumn" is on point, it offers some of Pinback's best tunes yet. —Jonathan Cohen

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