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released a delightful album



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Solo comeback is like hosting a party..you hope folk don't leave

ROCKER Jon Fratelli hopes everyone hasn't forgotten to the people who liked The Fratellis' about him ... as he's about to launch his solo career.

The singer enjoyed successful stints in The Fratellis and retro jazz outfit Codeine Velvet Club. But he's going it alone now and gave Something For The Weekend an exclu-sive interview about his plans in his

sive interview about his plans in his Glasgow city centre rehearsal studios.

Jon said: "When you've had a period away and you come back, you hope there's still people there.

"It's like having a party in your house. You nip into the kitchen for a fag, come back and everyone's gone — you'd be devastated. I get the feeling my solo record will appeal

writing about, so as a consequence it's a record that I would want to listen to. I liked at least half of the Codeine Velvet Club's stuff and the first Fratellis record did really well but I wouldn't listen to it.

"I would listen to this though, which is the exciting thing for me."

Jon shot to fame with The Fratellis — alongside Barry Fratelli (real name Barry Wallace) and Mince Fratelli (Gordon McRory) — in 2006 when debut album Costello Music reached No 2. Follow-up Here We Stand was released in 2008, then Jon walked away to form Codeine Velvet Club with Lou Hickey.

Just four months after their debut album was released,

"It's different to what I expected to come out with. Until we really got started I just had a bunch of songs.

"It's different to what I expected to come out of the whole process — my thing was just to write songs.

"I always feel that I'm scheming and songs will end up in a certain way, but it wasn't like that, I let Hoffer do whatever he wanted.

"Some of it was weird, some of it was confusing but the outcome on every single one, when you finally heard it, Just four months after their debut album was released,

confusing but the outcome on every single one, when you finally heard it, you got it."

None of the songs currently on Jon's website will make the album, every track

Jon, from Cumbernauld. explained:
"For the album the rule was the songs can go anywhere and be anything. The only thread running through it was every song had to be good.
"Some are more instant than others but if you give the album time then!" but if you give the album time, they'll

but if you give the album time, they is all make sense.

"The running order is important too. I like to come out the traps quickly and the first track Tell Me Honey does that.

"Towards the end of the record it starts to breathe a bit more. I guess by that point you've battered people enough that they want a wee rest. They want to is lie on their bed with the light off."

The songs are also the most modern Jon has ever sounded, something he concedes is not his doing.

He said: "Hoffer definitely had an ear on making it a modern record. It

In fact the only thing Jon's not totally

He said: "The Magic Hour is the work-

"I prefer Psycho Jukebox as it sums it up nicely."

Whatever it's called, the album will get its first airing when Jon plays Edinburgh's Picture House on February 12.

Joining him on stage for that gig — and all others from now on — will be old Fratellis bandmate and drummer Mince

Fratellis bandmate and drummer Mince Fratelli. He'll team up with current stickman Ross McFarlane.

And Jon also admitted for the first time publicly that The Fratellis are over.

He said: "I've always been on a life-

do whatever makes me happy. I don't want anything getting in the way.

"As a consequence I've written far better songs than I might have done, which

makes me happy.

"I would be really surprised if we ever got back together as The Fratellis. I don't see what the need would be, I wouldn't be doing it for me. I can't think of a good reason.

Selfish

"Adding Mince to my solo band was an idea I had.
"I always missed playing with Mince, we had an invisible connection and it's great to have him back.
"There's not many bands out there with two drummers it's been done but

not in this way. It's been done but not in this way. It's two full-on rock drummers playing together, they're like synchronised swimmers.

"And Barry from The Fratellis? I didn't need a bass player — it's that straightforward."

Long also admits he's been selfish, which

straightforward."

Jon also admits he's been selfish, which has pushed friends and family aside.

He said: "I expect to be making music

until I'm dead.

"There's nothing I compare doing this to, it takes over my head 24 hours a day and I'm happy for that to be the case.

"If someone took that way, I'd have no

"I someone took that way, I'd have no reason to still be kicking around.

"I do look at this as a long-term thing. I'm not seeking any quick gratification from it — I had that with The Fratellis.

"In a way it's good I've seen that and I know what happens. I'm happy for this solo thing to gather pace, it doesn't have the happen straight away.

to happen straight away.

"I'll always be writing. Even now I'm thinking of my next record.

"I can see why things like family and life can get in the way but I try to keep things or implies a possible.

things as simple as possible.

"Kids would definitely get in the way and you have to be able to dedicate

everything to music.
"It means that everybody else gets

"It means that everybody else gets what's left afterwards which isn't much sometimes.

"With this record it been, 'I'm sorry everybody but you're going to have to put up with this for the next couple of years'.

"This is the only way I could make a record that's good enough. I guess it is a little bit selfish but I'm not the first nor the last.

he last. "You can't lie to yourself — well

you can, but I don't want to."

● Get tickets for Jon's gig at The Picture House on February 12 at

