

Something for the Weekend



REAL TREAT . . . SFTW's Chris talks to Paul, left, before the boys rock Montreal

By CHRIS SWEENEY

SNOW PATROL are on top of their game. They tour the globe, sell bucketloads of albums, headline star-studded festivals and make a fortune.

But the Scots/Irish band — who formed at university in Dundee — haven't succumbed to Big Star Syndrome.

They still prefer rattling round the world in a minibus like a gang of students.

Speaking exclusively in Montreal on their North American tour, the lads confessed they aren't interested in issuing lavish riders or having a team of flunkies fussing about backstage.

Bass player Paul Wilson says: "We don't go in for all that. Some bands do it to keep up appearances but we'd rather be in our minibus having a laugh together. We don't need all that other s***."

"We're not really that kind of band and it would be weird to change now after ten years of not being into all that image stuff."

Charted

"We don't really get free stuff — other bands must ask, I guess, but we never get anything and don't really care."

The boys — Paul, frontman Gary Lightbody, guitarist Nathan Connolly, keys player Tom Simpson, drummer Jonny Quinn and backing singer Johnny McDaid — are across the Atlantic touring their seventh album, *Fallen Empires*, and it sees them at the peak of their powers.

It's been kept quiet but it has been their **MOST** successful, backing up Gary's claim it was their best ever work.

Paul, 34, explains: "This album has been received the best of any of our albums."

"What happens these days in music is things don't last as long. It's the way it is. Even six years ago, when Chasing Cars came out, songs like that used to gradually build up and go for ages."

"But now it's this huge spike. This album has had better reviews and it's charted higher globally than we've ever had, not just in America."

While back on home soil, Snow Patrol are sometimes easy targets for not being 'cool'.

But Stateside, they're viewed as being a proper rock band. Paul says: "Chasing Cars and Run are the two biggest songs everywhere, but we release different singles depending on the country."

"Over here the more rockier



We'd rather be in our minibus than luxury car

tunes get played on the radio and the quieter songs are really hard to get played.

"We changed the set around from the UK leg of the tour — the set here has more singles and more of our rockier stuff."

"Sometimes we even change it during the show. If people hold up signs we tend to play the song — which does not always go well."

"We're all thinking we'll remember any of our old songs, but you start playing and then sometimes we realise maybe not."

There's been a flood of American and Canadian teenagers at their gigs.

Paul explains: "We've got Ed

Sheeran supporting us and his crowd are really, really young."

"I've noticed a lot more young kids who are probably thinking they like Ed Sheeran and now Snow Patrol, too. It's really cool to get more of that crowd."

"We met him in Switzerland and hung out. We realised he had the time off so we asked him."

"Before that we'd found it really hard to get anyone as it's quite expensive to do a tour like this, plus we wanted someone quite big and it's ideal as he's just starting to break in America."

Snow Patrol are mega-busy until the autumn.

After wrapping up their North

American tour, it's straight into festival season and they will be all over Europe doing them, as well as headlining both *T In The Park* and *V*.

The boys will then continue work on their **NEXT** album. Paul reveals: "We kind of recorded two albums doing the last one, so a lot of the next one is there."

"God knows when we'll have time to do it. But whatever we do, we'll still be and sound like Snow Patrol."

SNOW PATROL know *T In The Park* will be their biggest gig of the year. And rocking 85,000 punters at Balado — where they first played as complete unknowns — will be so special they're working on something spectacular.

Paul said: "I can't say too much yet. We were all sitting down talking about it the other day, we're going to do something really special."

"Although that might make people think it's all these proper top-secret meetings."

"But it's really just us in a pub, talking s***e at 12 o'clock in the afternoon — someone slurring something about getting our stage looking like Stonehenge."

"But it will be cool whatever we decide."

NEW MUSIC

By JIM GELLANTLY

QUICKBEAM

WHO: Monika Gromek (harmony/vocals), Drew Thomson (guitar/vocals), Nichola Kerr (viola/vocals), Liam Chapman (drums/piano), Magdalena Sekowska (cello), Cameron Maxwell (double bass/trombone)

WHERE: Glasgow

FOR FANS OF: Belle and Sebastian, Low, Sigur Rós

JIM SAYS: It baffles me why anyone would go to a gig and talk through the show.

Not a problem if it's a rock 'n' roll event, but Quickbeam make delicate, atmospheric, folk-tinged soundscapes.

Motorhead they are **NOT**.

The Glasgow outfit debuted their stunning new single *Seven Hundred Birds* last Friday with a performance on Glasgow's *Tall Ship* which doubled as a launch for the city's newest record label *Comets & Cartwheels*.

I stoked up the courage midway through the set to ask for some quiet.

Guitarist Drew Thomson told me: "I think a few barrels of rum were discovered on that ship! Our music on the whole is pretty quiet."

"The audiences we have tended to play to are generally very attentive. We've had silent audiences at King Tut's, Brel and a few other venues. But we've also had some where people are just enjoying a night out."

"It's a difficult one for us. We have to choose our



venues wisely. Our style of music is always going to be exposed."

"We are really interested in seeking out locations that are unexpected and will add to the audience's experience, and complement the music."

I wasn't totally sold on Quickbeam when I was first heard them. But the beauty of *Seven Hundred Birds* eventually sucked me in.

Drew added: "Monika and I met a few years ago."

"We had really similar tastes and we seemed to click musically pretty quickly."

"Nichola joined us playing viola and her voice fitted in well with ours."

"We played as a three-piece for a while developing our sound. We then recorded three tracks with producer Chris Gordon, one of which was *Seven Hundred Birds*."

He's playing back to back all night long with fellow underground hero Joy Orbison — who's equally in demand right now for his super-fresh beats.

Expect everything from Detroit techno to Chicago house via the best of London bass music.

2 SUBSTANCE @ Bongo Club, Edinburgh, tonight: Rephlex Records — the brilliantly eclectic label founded by electronic maverick Aphex Twin — take over the Bongo with some of their finest artists in tow.

Aleksis Perala and Monolith play live sets while

TOP 5 NIGHTS

5

NIGHTS



By CHRIS SWEENEY

PREPARE for impact . . . because Lonsdale Boys Club is planning to hit you with everything they've got.

The London lads fuse all sorts of sounds together. Debut single *Light Me Up* is a perfect example and it's going down a storm ahead of its release on May 7.

Frontman Charlie Weaver said: "We've got many different avenues."

"Some songs are banging, some are rockier or more

dance — I want people to get the whole experience."

"We're like a jigsaw puzzle that needs putting together to understand the LBC experience."

"We play a lot of guitars on stage, even though we're not a guitar band."

"I'm not an MC, but I sing and do a bit of rap."

"It's not what people expect. We come from a background of festival-going and nightclubs with banging music."

"In the very initial stages an eclectic style like ours could hinder a new band

but we did it because it was true to us."

"If people just hear one song then another that was really different, they might not get the picture."

"But when they come see us live and hear the body of work, it'll make sense."

Pockets

The perfect chance to solve that puzzle is on their first UK headline tour — which stops at King Tut's in Glasgow on April 30.

They're ready to step up to the plate after serving

an apprenticeship. Charlie, 22, explained: "We've done a lot of supports with people like Olly Murs, The Kooks, The Ting Tings and One Night Only."

"We've always been true to ourselves at those gigs but you're mindful of the audience, and we catered our show to them."

"So this is the first time people will get the full LBC experience, I really want them to come down so they can see what we're about."

"We have small pockets of diehard fans and we want to expand that with this tour."

And any fan automatically becomes either a Hooligan or a Hulagirl — that's the official names for LBC's supporters and the title of their second single.

It'll be on their album which is due to hit shops in late summer.

Charlie said: "The names come from a lyric but when we were writing the song we had no fans whatsoever so it was more about what we would want them to be like."

X Factor judge Gary Barlow is already an official Hooligan after signing the boys — Charlie, Tophér Richwhite and Loz Curran — to his record label.

Calibre

Charlie added: "In the writing and recording process, Gary was hands-off with us. He let us do our thing but was more involved once we had the songs we were happy with."

"Then he gets to see them and pass judgment. "It's amazing to have someone of that calibre listening to your stuff, let alone working with him."

"I think he has a lot of belief in us and that really bolsters us."

"We just want to follow through and make it all happen in a big way."

● Get tour tickets at lonsdaleboysclub.com

ONE2SEE

WELSH dragons Lostprophets are back on the road.

The rockers are heading off on a big tour armed with latest album *Weapons*.

They will be at Aberdeen's Music Hall on Tuesday before heading south to the O2 Academy in Glasgow the following night.

Get all the info at their website, lostprophets.com

ONE2HEAR

SCOTS RnB boy David John shares a manager with 50 Cent and Mariah Carey.

Now he is looking to share some of their success too.

New York-based David brings out his debut single *Mr Fantastic* on May 14 and it's worth a listen.

Globetrotting David shot a swanky video at a ski resort in Switzerland — and it's online now.

Check it out at davidjohn.com

ONES TO WATCH



By TOM CHURCHILL

GRAND 'MASTER

1 NUMBERS @ Chambre 69, Glasgow, tomorrow: He's been criss-crossing the globe for months but tonight Jackmaster, pictured, is back on home turf for a very special one-off party.

As one of the founder members of the Numbers crew, he's seen his reputation skyrocket recently thanks to a sterling effort for London superclub Fabric's mix CD series and a regular radio show on London station Rinse FM.

He's playing back to back all night long with fellow underground hero Joy Orbison — who's equally in demand right now for his super-fresh beats.

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Aleksis Perala and Monolith play live sets while

Detroit's DJ Stingray — a mysterious affiliate of the revered Drexciya crew — takes to the decks.

3 WHITE NOISE @ La Cheetah, Glasgow, tonight: A new techno night joins the ranks at the venue of the moment, with Italian outfit Waveform jetting in to kick things off.

Fife duo The Sublime — aka Neil Fernie and Alex Wilson — also hit the turntables along with DJs Lindsay Green and Kendal Baird.

4 SUITE SOUL @ Foxbar Hotel, Kilmarnock, tomorrow: Another ace party hosted by Scotland's original soul man Bob Jeffries. There's live vocals from Pete Simpson, while London stalwart Terry Jones returns to the decks and Sheffield's Dave Needham makes his debut dropping soulful grooves old and new.

5 BACK TO LIFE @ Fury Murrays, Ayr, tonight: A night of club classics and vintage house grooves from globetrotting underground hero Murray Richardson, Rob Mason from the Let's Go Back crew, and A Deeper Groove's Joc and Stepha.

● Email your news and listings to tom.churchill@the-sun.co.uk

CLUBBING

SFTW meets SNOW PATROL

EVERY man, woman and child is in for a cracker of a Friday night at *T In The Park* in July — because Snow Patrol are firing on all cylinders.

Even after jamming their big stage step up into Montreal's downtown venue Metropolis, they were sublime. It was a proper Scottish take-over as Snow Patrol told their sound guy to blast out Franz Ferdinand's *Take Me Out* to get the 2,300-strong crowd going.

Then they charged out and kicked off with *Hands Open*. That started 90 minutes

of non-stop action of a greatest hits set including *Run, Take Back The City* and *Just Say Yes*.

Singer Gary Lightbody made a hash of anthem *Chasing Cars* by LOSING his timing and ended up doubled over with laughter, banging his head, as the rest of the boys carried on.

But the rest of the night — including support act Ed Sheeran joining them on stage for next single *New York* — went much smoother.

Roll on Balado!

CAUGHT LIVE IN MONTREAL

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