

# Something for the Weekend

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BY CHRIS SWEENEY

**IRISH** rockers **The Chakras** knew they had what it takes the moment rock hero **Ian Brown** gave them the thumbs up.

The singer — who got back together with The Stone Roses this week — was blown away by their thumping tunes.

Guitarist **Gordo Whittaker** said: “We’d sent the music to him and he really liked it — so he took us out on tour.”

“He was an absolute gentleman, he came over the first day of the run and was so friendly.”

“The Stone Roses are the reason we started playing music — Ian is

a f\*\*\*ing god to us and it was surreal standing there with him.”

“He told us clearly that we didn’t get the slot because of a manager or an agent. He said it was because he believed in us.”

But not everyone had *Ian’s* conviction, as record label bosses messed the boys about.

They sent them messages and letters — but could never find the time to fly over to the Emerald Isle and seal the deal.

So instead the lads jacked in their girlfriends and jobs, and moved to London themselves.

Gordon, 28, explained: “We just thought f\*\*\* it, let’s cut out the middleman and move over.”

“Within six months we had a

record deal and a publishing deal, both signed.

“It won’t be a plan that works for everyone. But if we weren’t confident then we wouldn’t have done it. We were very driven, put our heads down and got stuck in.”

“We had loads of labels really interested but trying to get them to come over from London was such an ordeal.

“All the people in Ireland told us it happens all the time.”

“You feel like you’re left hanging at the end of a piece of string.”

But now the boys are most definitely in demand.

This week they filmed an advert for a Tourism Ireland which will

be screened all over the globe. **Gordo** said: “We were buzzing to get asked to do it.”

“We played a gig for them in Belfast and they filmed it, so that’s been put into the ad — it was a long old day but great craic. We could start calling ourselves proper national ambassadors now, too.”

Now the band are going to do some marketing off their own.

They’re off on a short UK run — which stops at the Captain’s Rest in Glasgow on Sunday night — armed with debut album *Build Me A Swan*.

## Energy

And they don’t want anyone getting confused about their style, due to its title — or their band name. The Chakras, which is a Hindu concept about the body’s energy points.

**Gordo** added: “It’s a bit of a hippie thing — but we’re not hugging trees or sitting around the campfire singing together.”

“Energy is a massive thing for us, any gig we do we try to make it as energetic as we can — that’s a huge part of our band.”

“So that’s the reason behind the name — the only problem it usually gets spelled wrongly or some people get confused and call us The Shakiras — they’re usually pretty disappointed when a group of Irish lads turn up.”

● Get the album and tour tickets at [thechakras.co.uk](http://thechakras.co.uk)

[chris.sweeney@the-sun.co.uk](mailto:chris.sweeney@the-sun.co.uk)

## ONE2SEE

**LIBERTINES** star **Carl Barat** is going full throttle on the DJ circuit.

He’s all over Europe spinning tunes, earning rave reviews.

Next Friday he’s at the Pin Up Nights bash in Glasgow along with **Adelle** **Bethel** from **Sons and Daughters**. Info at [pinup-nights.co.uk](http://pinup-nights.co.uk)

## ONE2HEAR

**EMELI SANDÉ** will be on **The X Factor** on Sunday, belting out the chorus on **Professor Green’s** big tune **Read All About It**.

But her next solo single **Daddy**, featuring **Naughty Boy**, is all set to go with **Emeli** showing off stunning vocals — it’s out on **November 20**. Check it out at [emelisande.com](http://emelisande.com)



## NEW MUSIC BY JIM GELLATLY

### BWANI JUNCTION

**WHO:** Rory Fairweather (vocals/guitar), Dan Muir (guitar/vocals), Fergus Robson (bass/vocals), Jack Fotheringham (drums/vocals)

**WHERE:** Edinburgh

**FOR FANS OF:** Vampire Weekend, Talking Heads

**JIM SAYS:** This teenage outfit is yet another capital band on the verge of a major breakthrough.

The name comes from 50s movie *Bhowani Junction*, starring **Ava Gardner** and **Stewart Granger**. **Rory** revealed:

“We first saw it on a poster for the film in a studio we rehearsed at.”

“After seeing the movie we decided to use it and drop the ‘ho’ from *Bhowani*.”

Though essentially an indie pop band, there’s a strong Afrobeat feel to **Bwani’s** music. And they cite the **Bhundu Boys** as a major influence.

There is a direct link to the Zimbabwean world music legends.

Band manager **Gordon Muir**, also guitarist **Dan’s** dad, looked after the **Bhundu Boys** when they moved to the Scottish Borders in the 80s.

Originally formed at the posh **Merchiston Castle School**, they were still



pupils when they claimed their first **Radio 1** play from **Vic Galloway**. **Zane Lowe** and **Feame Cotton** went on to playlist the band, while **Huw Stephens** recently had them in session.

**Bwani’s** debut album, set for release next month, is total joy.

It’s a league above your run-of-the-mill indie rock.

It’s incredibly catchy music with huge crossover potential.

Highlights include future single **Two Bridges**.

In the tradition of an old-school band manager, **Gordon** had hoped to use the **Forth Bridges** to promote it. **Rory** said:

“**Network Rail** weren’t having it for safety reasons despite allowing **The One Show** up to film, and the local **Rotary Club** to abseil off the top of it.”

“We’re a bit miffed as it could have been great.”

**Bwani Junction** appear tonight at **PJ Molloy’s** in **Dunfermline**, and support **Pigeon Detectives** at the **Liquid Room** in **Edinburgh** on **November 25**.

**MORE:** [facebook.com/bwanijunction](http://facebook.com/bwanijunction)

● **Jim**’ll be playing **Bwani Junction** on **In-Demand Uncut** — **Sunday 7-10pm** on **Clyde 1**, **Forth One**, **Northsound 1**, **Radio Borders**, **Tay FM**, **West FM** & **West Sound FM**. See [jimgellatly.com](http://jimgellatly.com)

ONES 2 WATCH

# Check out the Chakras



BY TOM CHURCHILL

# DOPE’S SMOKIN’

1 **SOUL HEAVEN** @ **Green Room/Below Stairs**, **Edinburgh**, tomorrow: A true giant of house music hits the capital this weekend in the form of **Kenny ‘Dope’ Gonzales**. The veteran DJ, pictured, is one half of legendary **Big Apple** production team **Masters At Work**, and his remix *CV* includes everyone from **Daft Punk** to **Michael Jackson**. Support comes from **Craig Smith**, while in room two **John Tokyoblu** plays his last ever set in the capital.

2 **DEADLY RHYTHM** @ **Chambre 69**, **Edinburgh**, tonight: **Scotland** gets a flavour of Manchester’s coolest underground club night, **Hoya Hoya**. **Illum Sphere** and **Jonny Dub** showcase their eclectic blend of electronic hip hop and post-dubstep grooves.

3 **SUPERNOVA** @ **The Arches**, **Glasgow**, tonight: **Berlin’s** first lady of techno, **Ellen Allien**, jets in for a rare **Scots** appearance. The brains behind the **Bitch Control** label is one of the most innovative spinners around, so you’ll hear some seriously cutting-edge electro sounds.

4 **SENSU** @ **Sub Club**, **Glasgow**, tonight: It’s their seventh birthday, and the **Sensu** crew have invited **Parisian** house master **Shonky** to help them celebrate. Expect to hear the finest deep house and techno grooves — and it’s free to get in before midnight.

5 **THE DIFFERENCE** @ **Club 69**, **Paisley**, tonight: Meanwhile, in **Paisley**, **The Difference** reach their first annual milestone, and **Alan Fitzpatrick** will be bringing his big-room techno sound to the infamous basement.

● Email your news and listings to [tom.churchill@the-sun.co.uk](mailto:tom.churchill@the-sun.co.uk)



CLUBBING

TOP 5 NIGHTS

SFTW meets KASABIAN

By CHRIS SWEENEY

**KASABIAN** know they’re the top dogs — but you’re either with them or against them.

Current album *Velociraptor!* was their third number one in a row — making them our biggest rock ‘n’ rollers by a mile.

Along with the status, the **Leicester** lads have landed bucketloads of critically-acclaimed plaudits and awards along the way.

But they haven’t lost any of their raw edge or bite.

Frontman **Tom Meighan** revels in knowing some bands and punters want to see them knocked off their perch.

He snarled: “They’re absolute f\*\*\*ing idiots. I love the fact that still now some people don’t get what I’m about, or **Serge**, or the band.”

“And that’s good to me — anyone like that can f\*\*\*ing rot in hell.”

“We’re passionate about our music, of course, but we’re not too serious.”

And we’ve got an army of fans now, so we don’t care what anyone really thinks.

“We feel the same as we did on day one.”

“Yeah, things have changed and we’ve changed — but we are the same people.”

“Of course people are still going to hate and we’re going to be hated as we’re big.”

“But we’re the people’s band. We are a big band now and I love f\*\*\*ing being up here.”

“I’m sitting on a throne with my crown on, it’s f\*\*\*ing fantastic. I love the fact people get angry at me saying that. I’m saying it to wind them up.”

“The crown is still on my head, so come and f\*\*\*ing try to take it.”

**Bonkers Tom** has been in full wind-up mode of late as the band’s promotional duties have ramped up.

He kicked off by playing a joke on **Q Magazine** in their special 25th anniversary issue saying he hated **Simple Minds**.

He was reported as saying he’s going solo and there was also reports the star suffers from stage fright.

**Tom**, 30, snapped: “I was kidding, it’s all a joke.”

“Things do get taken out of proportion, it’s the way it is. I think it’s brilliant. I love the fact that it winds everyone up.”

“I mean on the solo stuff, I was only saying it would be lovely to do something with my brother **John James** one day. That’s all, as he’s a great guitarist and a good musician.”

“I never went on about going solo, it’s nothing like that. Just one day we’ll maybe do some music together.”

The most impressive thing about **Kasabian’s** spectacular run of success is that they’ve changed with each album — from their self-titled debut (2004), to indie stomper *Empire* (2006) and especially with their last record, the experimental *West Ryder Pauper Lunatic Asylum* (2009).

Now with *Velociraptor!*, released last month, **Kasabian** — **Tom**, guitarist and songwriter **Serge Pizzorno**, drummer **Ian Matthews** and bass player **Chris Edwards** — moved the goalposts, but have



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

kept the momentum going. **Tom** said: “It’s our fourth album and I’m absolutely thrilled. It’s been amazing to see it do so well.”

“People loved **West Ryder** and we can’t always please all our fans, you know?”

“I love the fans but some of them have been taken away as we’ve gone back to basic songwriting with the new album.”

“But it’s not really that basic, we’ve made really big songs, beautiful melodic ones and not all of our fans are

going to f\*\*\*ing like it — that’s the way it is.”

“We don’t mean to upset anyone. The formula is we keep changing our sound and we try to do something we’ve not done before. It would have been wrong to do something like *Underdog* again.”

“People get comfort in old songs like *LSF* and *Empire*, and I get that.”

“But it would have been wrong for us to go back to what we did before.”

“We wanted a record that came from the mood **Serge** was in when he was writing the songs — his state of mind and what we’d been through.”

“There’s not so much that’s changed, like our last single *Days Are Forgotten* — listen to the f\*\*\*er, it’s pure **Kasabian**. All it was, we have beautiful songs and we just went back to an old traditional format.”

There’s also another single to come — with *Rewired* being released on **November**

20. But **Tom** admits they won’t be tuning into the chart countdown, adding: “We give a s\*\*\* about a number one album but not singles.”

“Singles don’t exist to rock ‘n’ roll bands anymore, which is a really sad thing.”

Now the boys are taking *Velociraptor!* out of its cage and on the road.

They did a run of festivals last summer — including a headline slot at **RockNess** — but limited themselves to just two new tracks live.

## Tour

But **December’s** huge **European arena tour** — which storms the **SECC** in **Glasgow** on **December 11** and the next night at **Aberdeen’s AECC** — will be a different story.

**Tom** explained: “We’ll play the bulk of the new record — six or seven songs. We want a theme and we’re in rehearsals right now.”

“Each of those shows is going to be like a cannon firing — they’ll be fantastic. I don’t know yet if it means we’ll not play again in the UK for a while. It’s early bloody days to discuss 2012. We’ll just wait and see.”

The fact that **Kasabian** are able to go on massive tours is testament to the band’s pulling power, which **Tom** reckons is down to talent and timing.

He said: “In rock ‘n’ roll terms, **Oasis** and **U2** are never going to happen again. The record industry has changed from when they started out.

“It’s hard to predict what it would be like starting now. It’s a bad time. I’m thankful we put our music out in 2003 before iTunes and the web.”

“It’s a gift **God** gave us, we’ve done all this off our own backs and on our own terms.”

“Most of the bands we came out with years ago, have gone out and disappeared. But we’ve got staying power, because we’re a f\*\*\*ing good rock ‘n’ roll band.”

## WIN TICKETS

**KASABIAN** have given us a pair of tickets to their sold-out show at **Glasgow’s SECC** on **December 11**. To win, just tell us: Which town do they come from?

Email your answer and contact details to [chris.sweeney@the-sun.co.uk](mailto:chris.sweeney@the-sun.co.uk) by midnight tonight. Ten runners-up get a copy of *Velociraptor!* Usual rules apply.