

Something for the Weekend



BY CHRIS SWEENEY

It's a big leap for me going out on my own

MAXIMO Park front-man Paul Smith is sure his new solo album is class — because he's been listening to it since 2011.

The singer has been fussing about with Contradictions all that time. But now he's finally unleashed it.

Paul, 36, admitted: "It's been a whirlwind for Maximo Park recently as we did two albums right after each other, and then toured them."

"Before I realised it, it had been four years. So I thought, it's time to get this out."

"I still love the songs I wrote four years ago, and that's allowed me to be really confident about

the music, rather than just thinking it was something I was into back then."

It shows off a more relaxed side to Paul, than his famous image as a jumping jack rocker.

He explained: "I ended up writing them at home and not thinking too much about them."

"And then when I reflected — I thought, they don't sound like Maximo Park songs."

"Plus on my own I write guitar solos and have little musical ideas and if would be almost disrespectful if I was to tell the band 'play them like this'."

"We are democratic, it's hard to be dogmatic in our band and make something exactly how you want it."

"These songs don't fit in with the band to stand behind. Even the lyrics have words I wouldn't use for Maximo Park."

But there's no tension in the group and they'll be on tour

together later this year. The Stockton-on-Tees boy: "A lot of bands split up as the singer wants to do something different. But we're mature enough now that we don't have that kind of worry if we do something on our own."

"My solo stuff is musical itches I want to scratch. 'It's like if I don't get it out, I'll feel stifled.'"

Paul has got a group of musicians together so he can tour Contradictions.

But it's going to be low-key and fans will get to see a side of the chart-topper they haven't before.

He hits King Tut's in Glasgow on Wednesday night. Paul added: "I'm doing small, intimate places and I can really get into the shows, but with Maximo Park it's back to the bigger places and

ONE2HEAR

EVERYONE from Slash to Robert Plant to Kings of Leon is lapping up The Last Internationale.

After making a massive splash in the US with their debut album they were named "the future of rebel rock music".

Now they're over here and working it hard. They hit Scotland earlier this year with The Who. They're dynamite. Check out their stuff at thelastinternationale.com

ONE2SEE

INTO The Ark are a duo on the rise.

The Welsh lads — Dane Lloyd and Taylor Marshall Jones — knock out laid-back tunes.

The management team that propelled Paolo Nutini to fame has taken them on. And they're coming up here to get the ball rolling.

They're at The Loch Ness Inn tonight before carrying on to Edinburgh and Dundee.

Get tickets at gigsinscotland.com

PAUL SMITH
AND THE
CONTRADICTIONS

CONTRADICTIONS

high energy gigs. When you see me solo you get that personal touch that I can't show at the band's gigs — I can stop and tell the stories about the songs."

And he's hoping that new punters come along, but doesn't want to see his hardcore fans dismiss it as watered down and lacking bite.

Paul said: "The ideal situation is that some of the people who are into Maximo Park like it, as it's still me singing. But I dream that people who don't like Maximo Park or find the band a bit too full-on might get into it, as it's good guitar pop."

"I want to keep on moving and not go stale."

"You've got to find the good in life or it's going to be a hard slog."

● **FOR your tickets and to buy Contradictions, go to:** paulsmithmusic.eu

ONE2WATCH

GET SET TO FILL UP ON CARBS

CARBS

WHO: Jonnie Common (vocals/ production), Jamie Scott (vocals/ production)

WHERE: Glasgow

FOR FANS OF: King Creosote, Beastie Boys, Young Fathers

JIM SAYS: Mixing lo-fi electro with Scottish rap, and a perfect dose of humour, Hip hop brothers Carbs debut album Joyous Material Failure is a fine listen.

Both Jonnie and Jamie have previously made an impact with other projects.

Jonnie Common has released a couple of great solo albums since splitting with his old band Down The Tiny Steps.



NEW MUSIC

By JIM GELLATLY

Jamie was half of SAY Award nominated duo Conquering Animal Sound. Though they've previously collaborated, Carbs is the first time they've formed a full-fledged band.

Jamie told me: "I think adolescent brotherly competitiveness kept us apart before and meant we worked in separate bands, but we've come full circle."

"The first time we did something together was Jonnie's Deskjob album."

"He recorded a band playing a song then reworked it, developed it and added new ideas of his own."

"He recorded a great version of Maschine, by my old group Conquering Animal Sound." Jonnie continued: "Shortly after that we both started working on

material with a third party. That project didn't pan out but it made Jamie and I realise how much we enjoyed writing together." The result was Carbs.

As both continue to work on other music, they do consider Carbs to be a side-project. Jamie said: "Jonnie has his very successful solo career and I have a rap guise called MC Almond Milk."

"The album was actually written and mixed over a protracted period of time."

"It had to take a backseat to the second Conquering Animal Sound record, then Jonnie released his second album Trapped In Amber last year."

"We didn't want to it to get swallowed up in the promotion of either of those records. It needed to stand alone, so it had to wait till now to surface."

MORE: facebook.com/carbsinjection
● **JIM presents Drivetime on XFM Scotland, Monday to Friday 4-7pm.** xfm.co.uk, jimgellatly.com



Watch video of Carbs at:

thescottishsun.co.uk