

s f t w**MUSIC****SWISS FAMILY ORBISON****EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW**

I have got unfinished busy-ness

Says DOUGIE VIPOND

By CHRIS SWEENEY

DOUGIE Vipond has signed up for his SIXTH job — after getting back together with The Swiss Family Orbison.

The 90s Dundee group split after only one album.

And Dougie couldn't resist the chance to take care of unfinished business with a Scots tour. But it means he'll be flat-out — and won't have a single day off this month.

Along with the Orbisons, he's got his main group Deacon Blue to think about — plus his TV duties on BBC Sport, presenting rural series Landward, hosting The Adventure Show and writing a newspaper column. On top of that, he's training for a triathlon.

'Second album evolved'

Drummer Dougie, 49, said: "As I've got older, I tried to calm down a wee bit and get less busy, but it's got worse. I'm looking at no days off for the next four weeks — and that's going to be tough."

The Swiss Family Orbison originally formed out of the ashes of Danny Wilson — known for their smash hit Mary's Prayers.

Their self-titled debut album came out in November 1997.

Influential DJ John Peel admitted he couldn't get enough of it and played it to death at home.

But while the follow-up Thick As Pop was recorded, it never saw the light of day.

Dougie explained: "It was a shame the way the band petered out. Back

in the 90s, the songs were great, we were all good pals, but it just ended and it was frustrating. We just got busy and we were doing different things. It was hard to keep focused.

"When I got involved on the first record, most of the songs were pretty formed at that point.

"And the second album evolved out of the gigs we were doing.

"We all had a role then. It felt more like everyone had found their feet and it was frustrating it never got properly released.

"But that's the nature of being in bands — sometimes things don't come out.

"I was lucky that Deacon Blue were on a major label.

"But Swiss Family was a very different thing. We were scrambling around looking for money and needing cash to get things done."

The reunion features all of the original members — stickman

Dougie, singer Kit Clark, guitarists Gregor Philip and Keith Matheson plus bass player Colin Davidson.

And they're taking it seriously. Dougie admits he'll be thrashing away at home so he can slip back into top gear.

He said: "It was all about making sure it was the original five members. We've all been individually working, so we know the tunes."

"When they asked me to join in the first place, they sent me a cassette of the tunes — and I was so well prepared. I wrote out all of the drums parts as I wanted to impress them and show I was taking it seriously. So next week will be an intensive rehearsal period for me to say the least.

"I'm really up for it."

● The Swiss Family Orbison play Oran Mor in Glasgow tonight and Fat Sam's in Dundee tomorrow.

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RETURN . . .
Deacon Blue
and TV star
Dougie is back
on tour with
Swiss Family
Orbison, who
he first joined
in the 90s

Latest hit from the Bloc party

AMATRART

WHO: Jonathan Mullen (vocals/guitar), Josh McGeehan (guitar), Niall Jootun (bass), Niall Morris (synths), Lewis Orr (drums).

WHERE: Glasgow.

FOR FANS OF: Radiohead, Alt-J, Foals.

JIM SAYS: Glasgow label Bloc+ Music have again come up trumps with their

latest release. In AmatrArt, they are getting behind an outfit already starting to make an impact on the scene.

Last year was a massive one for the band. Not only did they release their debut EP, but they secured a prestigious slot on the T Break stage at T In The Park. Playing live has

helped the five-piece develop as a band.

Lewis explained: "Our first EP was written and recorded pretty much exclusively inside a computer in Josh's bedroom. From there on our tracks have all been written using live instruments and by essentially jamming ideas together."

Their new double-a-

side 7" features the tracks Mirror and Soft Skin and is out now. AmatrArt play The Hug and Pint in Glasgow on April 29.

More: www.amatrart.com

● Jim presents a weekly showcase of New Music on Amazing Radio on Sundays, 2-4pm. www.amazingradio.com www.jimgellatly.com

NEW MUSIC By Jim Gellatly