

PHILLY ROCK REVIEW



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

November has been an incredible month for music. In fact, all of 2010 has been. Your adventurous editor has seen her favorite band three times this year, the third time being in Los Angeles. Yes, I flew across the country just to see a concert. That's the magic of music - it connects people.

Speaking of connecting, I'm suggesting that you start connecting your ears to your local radio stations. Some people will scoff at the radio these days, but I urge you to turn it back on. I have found many a new favorite band on the airwaves. If you've had your iPod on shuffle too long, allow me to point you in the right direction.

Radio 104.5 is by far one of the best stations I've listened to in a long time. On Sunday nights at 9pm, they have their New Music Show, which is a great opportunity to expand your tastes. They also bring in local and national bands for live Studio Sessions, and they give listeners a chance to display some of their own favorites with "Your Finest Hour."

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While Radio 104.5 plays more alternative and indie types of music, 93.3 WMMR is a great choice for rock fans. Not only does this radio station play contemporary rock along with well-loved goodies, but their DJ's have fantastic shows. From the morning show with Preston and Steve to vinyl cuts with Pierre (and all the rockin' DJ's in between), you'll be entertained between the music.

Support the radio (well, the good radio) and get out and support your local music scene. Every band has to start somewhere. Philadelphia is legendary for many things. The music is certainly one of them. ★



LOCAL BAND SPOTLIGHT

KELLY OVERDRIVE

By Francis Paulio

Kelly Overdrive has gone through quite a bit of changes in the eight years since its inception back in 2002. The band continues to be fronted by Eric Battestelli, who plays guitar and writes music in addition to lead vocals for the group. The rhythm section also continues to be supported by his brother James, who has been playing drums for over 20 years now (since age 5). Now in 2010, they welcome the addition of Daniel J. Galley, a wonderfully talented keyboardist with an awesome voice.

K. O. has kept extremely busy since recording their debut CD, "827", in 2006. They have played the main stage at the famous Grape Street Pub before it closed its doors. They have played multiple gigs at the North Star Bar and the Kyhber, headline spots on WYBE's "Wild About Philly Live!" and the main stage at the Trochadero in 2008. The band took over a year off while Eric settled in to his fatherly duties (he is a new dad!). In that time, the band lost former members Paul Curcio (bass) and Frank Baldino (rhythm guitar) to personal responsibilities. In that time, the Battestelli brothers teamed up with Daniel to return to the stage. They marked their return this year with a March show at the Draught Horse on Temple's campus, and since then have played the North Star Bar, O'Reilly's, PJ Henry's in Ardmore and Fishtown's River City Festival.

KO: A History of Epic Proportions

Before Fairmount was conquered by the yuppie, it was a working class neighborhood of mainly Irish and Italian families who proudly called it home. The Battestelli family was one such clan. They and their business establishment, Terry's Kitchen, were a neighborhood staple. It was a focal point for the



James Battestelli, Eric Battestelli, Daniel J. Galley

neighborhood and for the Battestelli brothers: Eric, Henry, Jay and Jim. Besides having a knack for baseball, all four brothers could play music. Jay, Henry, Danny Flaherty (a Fairmount neighborhood friend) and Paul Curcio (a south Philly guy with a penchant for surf guitar) started a band called St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Cool name, cooler sound. The young bucks fused their roots - punk, surf, metal, and grunge - while honing their skills above the family restaurant. Eventually, Danny left the band and was replaced by youngest Battestelli brother Jim on drums. Gigs happened along with the dream of making it big, but youth plus success tends to yield tension and trouble. Thus, the guys began to ponder their future together and slowly but surely they drifted apart.

Enter elder brother, Eric, also affectionately known as "Mick". Of all the brothers, Mick was the only one formally trained and schooled in music. He had an idea for a band - with the intensity of the Grenadines - but one that would incorporate his musical influences: 70's rock and pop, singer/songwriter style, and classical music. The guys needed a name.

Kelly Drive and the Schuylkill River were a baseball throw from the restaurant. It was a gathering place for the family. For Eric, it was also a place where he found writing inspiration, as well as the love of his life. So, to pay homage to these very Philadelphia roots, Kelly Overdrive was born.

Eric on lead guitar and vocals. Henry on bass. Paul on rhythm guitar. Jim on drums. They picked up right where St. Vincent and the Grenadines left off. Gigs began: Doc Watson's, The Hollywood Bistro, The Fire, The Mill Creek Tavern. An album started. Things picked up so much that Henry had to leave. His new career and a new marriage were now center stage in his life. So, Paul moved over to bass.

Frank Baldino had become friends with the guys through Danny Flaherty, the first Grenadines drummer. He would regularly attend the famous Monday night hang outs on Tulip Street, in Northeast Philly, Mick and Henry's house. Mick would talk music a lot and Frank preached his love of jazz. He just so happened to play guitar. So before long, he was a part of the band, providing rookie enthusiasm to things.

Then...tragedy...

Jim, the drummer and a major creative force for Kelly Overdrive, was in a horrifying car accident that left him clinging to life. Questions abounded: Would he ever wake up? If so, would he walk and talk again? A dark time for the band and the Battestelli family...

Something needed to be done to help with the rising hospital costs for Jim's care. Also, the family needed healing, and outlet for their pain and frustration. So at Jim's bedside, the idea for a benefit for Jim, featuring Kelly Overdrive, was born. They would have it in their old neighborhood, at the old grade school, and with a little help, Jim would be there and awake.

Frank had an old friend, Sean Merrigan, who played drums. Sean paid his dues musically over the years. He played many a VFW hall and dive bar in his day. Like Frank, Sean had an affection for jazz. In addition, he dug reggae and rockabilly. As a gracious favor to Frank and to the Battestelli family, to whom he had not even met at that point, Sean took on the tremendous task of playing the benefit.

So, the guys, Mick, Paul, Frank and Sean, with but two months to get ready, forged ahead...and they had a motivating factor - Jim awoke from his coma.

Needless to say, they got ready just fine and then some. The benefit was a financial and emotional



success. Friends, family, and strangers from far around came to the aid of Jim. All was right in the world again.

After months of rehab and hard work, Jim returned to play the drums for the band. He improves a bit with each practice. He has even finished recording their debut album with the band. Sean has moved onward in his life's path in pursuit of his academic and career goals. The band is forever indebted for his creative contributions and thankful for his continued friendship.

In the following years after this troubled time, Frank was forced to leave the band in pursuit of his own career goals as well. The remaining members - the Battestelli brothers and Paul - began to contemplate the future of the band. Mick mentioned the band's trouble to a very gifted keyboardist that he worked with, Daniel J. Galley, and he joined Kelly Overdrive. The band played quite the breakthrough show at The Draught Horse on Temple University's campus. The next week, Paul tendered his resignation due to personal responsibilities elsewhere, but the band marched on as they always have. Set backs don't stand in the way of these rockers.

Mick, Jim and D.J. have been playing shows all year, so be sure to catch them when you can. Their next gig is at the North Star Bar on November 26th. ★

ON A STAGE NEAR YOU

MUMFORD & SONS



November 9, 2010

Opening Bands: King Charles and Cadillac Sky

Review By: Lauren Ward

It was hard to pinpoint the crowd at the Electric Factory the night of the Mumford & Sons concert. There were college age kids and people who were old enough to be their parents. There were hipsters, preps, punks and frat guys. Clearly this was a band that appealed to everyone.

After two fantastic sets by the opening bands, King Charles and Cadillac Sky, the men of Mumford & Sons took the stage to roars of a crowd that already knew it was in for a treat. They opened with the title track of their CD, *Sigh No More*. It is a song that starts off slow, like the beating of one's heart, before quickening the pulse into a fast paced, feet-stomping tune. They kept up the speed for a little while before transitioning beautifully into slower gems like "White Blank Page." It is not a song to second guess; darker energy and lyrics are what make up this song. If you happened to catch the rhythm change at the end of it, you felt as though the worth of your ticket price had just doubled.

The band debuted a new song, "Below My Feet," which received a warm response. They played a few more songs off of their album before launching into their single, "Little Lion Man." The crowd went wild when they heard the first familiar chords of the guitar. Strings of large white bulbs were stretched out over the audience, and were lit only for this song, possibly in reference to their music video for the song. Every person in the building knew every last word and sang along at the top of their lungs.

The lighting on stage fittingly changed from blue and white to shades of red when they played "Thistle & Weeds." After that haunting song, the crowd's collective spirit was raised with "After the Storm." The stirring of souls could be seen on many faces

during it. The lyrics are what stands out the most in this otherwise simple song.

For "Awake My Soul," the band invited several members of the opening bands onto stage with them to create an eight piece harmony for the gorgeous chords that were sung. They topped off the set with "Dust Bowl Dance."

For the encore, all of the members of the opening bands joined Mumford & Sons on stage for two covers: one from King Charles and one from Old Crow Medicine Show. The bands' members took turns showing off with solos on all kinds of instruments: guitar, bass, drums, banjo, trumpet and even a mandolin. Not only was the instrument list impressive, but many of the members switched instruments during the songs. To say that these three bands are talented is an enormous understatement.

***"In these bodies, we will live.
In these bodies, we will die.
And where you invest your
love, you invest your life."***



© thepistoia.com



Mumford & Sons played one last song before exiting the stage for good. “Cave” is their second radio single, and the fans went just as crazy for it as they had all of the other tunes. The band promised to come back again soon for another tour, and then the night ended.

If you stuck around the back entrance for a while after the show, you would have met Marcus, Ben, Ted and Country. They were humorous on stage, joking and making a connection with the audience between songs. Outside of the Electric Factory, a camera man was taking video of the fans’ reactions to the show. After showering and jamming together inside, the boys emerged from the building and were very sweet and humble to the waiting fans, offering to sign any number of ticket stubs and posters.

The show that night was sold out, as were many others on their U.S. tour. The men of Mumford & Sons delivered an amazing show. With the ability to sound even better live than they do on their CDs, this is certainly a band with staying power. ★



Setlist:

Sigh No More / Roll Away Your Stone / Winter Winds / White Blank Page / Below My Feet / Timshel / I Gave You All / Little Lion Man / Lover of the Light / Thistle & Weeds / After The Storm / Broken Crown / Awake My Soul / Dust Bowl Dance Encore: Lady of the River (King Charles song) w/King Charles and Cadillac Sky / Wagon Wheel (Old Crow Medicine Show cover) w/King Charles and Cadillac Sky / The Cave

A Phellow Philly Phan's Top 10 Life-Changing Songs

This month's Phan:

★ **Liz Gannon** ★

Rutgers-Camden Alumna

Starbucks employee

A huge Phan of rock

1. "Only In Dreams"
(Weezer)
2. "Awake My Soul"
(Mumford & Sons)
3. "Astronaut"
(Something Corporate)
4. "Don't Stop Believin"
(Journey)
5. "Hey Jude"
(The Beatles)
6. "Going Away To College"
(Blink 182)
7. "Untitled 3"
(Sigur Ros)
8. "Transatlanticism"
(Death Cab For Cutie)
9. "MFEO"
(Jack's Mannequin)
10. "For Me This Is Heaven"
(Jimmy Eat World)

VENUES EXPOSED



Triumph Brewing Company

By Suzy Q.

This music venue is so much more than that. It's conveniently located on Chestnut Street between 1st and 2nd, and it offers sit down dinners, a full and gorgeous bar, rooms for private parties and, of course, a stage for local music. Cover on the weekend may be as low as \$5, and you're sure to catch a great band in a cool setting.

SUNDAYS - Open Mic with Dani Mari 8pm

MONDAYS – Open Jam Session with Tony Catastrophe 9pm

TUESDAYS – Philadelphia Folk Song Society Presents The Rhythm and Roots Music Series 8pm

WEDNESDAYS – Live & Local Music Series
and \$3 Select Drafts 8pm

THURSDAYS - Live Local and Regional Bands

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS – Live Regional & National Bands

This Month:

BORIS GARCIA

Saturday November 6th, 10pm

THE BAILEY HOUNDS

Saturday November 13th, 10pm

COPPERTONIC & LP STILES

Friday November 19th, 9pm

LOWER CASE BLUES, MIKEY JR BAND

Saturday November 20th, 9pm

THANKSGIVING EVE SHOW: TOY SOLDIERS, TJ

KONG AND THE ATOMIC BOMB, MORE TBA

Wednesday November 24th, 9pm – Drink Specials

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Restaurant Hours:

Monday-Saturday 11:30am-2:00am

Sunday 11:30-Midnight

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