

Flight 12 to land in Canada for recording



Flight 12: Kelum Ishara (Josef), Shamli Perera (Bamsi), Roshan Vignarajah (Paul), Shaleen Shanthikumar (Shanti), Shehan Juriansz (Delon) and Devshan Perera (Dave) in the centre (from left to right)

CHAMIKARA WEERASINGHE

Three guys sat on wooden stools and two started strumming acoustic guitars while the third picked electric bass. The guy in the middle sang and played rhythm. He was Dave Perera. On his right was Shamli Perera, who accompanied Dave with the lead guitar with Paul picking electric bass.

Flight 12 usually perform a song or two with a few instruments in their gigs. The outfit has six members with Joseph on keyboard, Shalin on drums, whom the rest of the party call "Shanti" and Delon on vocals.

Flight Twelve's approach to local Western

music scene is somewhat different from other professional bands in the scene for they are more inclined to play their own songs or compositions as against doing cover songs.

Flight 12 have become a band that local audiences would look up for do something special on any given day for they seem to have often been able to astound a crowd with a few of their own singles no matter where they play.

They would play many genres of pop music ranging from folk to heavy metal and even jazz to some extent.

They would not leave an audience without delighting them with at least one or two of their originals songs.

Their performances have become remembered

THE POINT

as with their recent appearances at Water's Edge and Margarita Blue of Galadari.

"This is what Flight Twelve's Dave has to say about their approach to music and playing covers of other artists: "We do cover songs alright, but we are committed to do originals."

"It is not going to be easy for any band to survive in the Western music scene without playing covers because people want to listen to them," he said.

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"However, we have got very good response for our music in the middle of things. The band has composed music for 14 original songs written by Tommy Tyler," said Dave.

Flight Twelve would not have ventured into composing their own music, had it not been to Canadian song writer Tommy Tyler, who is the main figure behind Flight Twelve successes.

Tyler spotted the band

and the talent in the outfit a few years ago and facilitated the local boys to move on with their music. As put it by Tyler, who is also the manager of Flight Twelve, "the group is talented and young. The eldest member of the band is 23, and the rest are in their eighteens and nineteens."

"They simply needed to be directed," he said.

"What I found more fascinating about Paul, Dave, Joseph, Shalin, Delon and Shamli was their ability to understand a musical idea. This prompted me to provide them with my lyrics," he said.

Tyler has written about 100 songs with the band, but said "I do not consider myself as a singer for I



Tommy Tyler

devote most of my time writing songs."

"The band has so far composed 10 per cent of the songs," he said.

Explaining his plans for the band, Tyler said, "I am trying to get a record deal for us. I have spoken to Sony records in Canada."

"We are also planning to record a few songs in

Hi folks

Years in music

Since when?

There is hardly any band in Sri Lanka or in any other country for that matter, which has lasted unchanged for more than 20 years, the reason being the members in a band are likely to leave their outfits out of boredom or venture into new grounds.

But the situation is different with individual artists for they seem to cruise along somehow in the field from eighteen till they die.

Only a very few bands have enjoyed their being on the road as a unit for more than 20 years. Among them are UB40, Pearl Jam, Cinderella, Poison, U2, Smashing Pumpkins and Bryan Adams and his band.

These guys are consummate professionals in the field of music, and they can continue to last doing their best for another thirty or sixty years.

They all share one thing in common that they have been practically involved in music in one form or another by touring to stage their live performances, producing audio and videos albums, or practicing indoors with the unit.

These musicians and their bands can rightly announce that they have been in the music scene for the past 20, 30 or 40 years because they have been in it for such time.

In the case of Sri Lankan scene there are but a few bands that have lasted as a unit to reach the milestone of 20 years.

The band Marians reached this mark recently celebrating their music for the past 20 years at the BMICH. Interestingly we come across another name in the history of popular band music in Sri Lanka which has entertained for 39 th year in music as an all-time active unit. The Golden Chimes is perhaps the only band that has lasted so long with its vocalist Lankika Perera and bassist/vocalist Chanaka Perera the period of late composer Clarence Wijewardena.

There are old bands in Sri Lanka which came in the period between 1960s and 70s but they did not last as practical musical units. They took breaks for five to ten years or ten to fifteen years. These bands tend to claim that they have been in the music scene for thirty years or fifty years through media, but it is untrue.

What has happened is that they have lived long after their bands have been disbanded, which means they have been out of the way of music that they were with it. So next time be careful when a band that has just reunited were to say that they have been in the music scene for twenty, thirty or forty years. Have a nice weekend!

- Chamikara

Predictions and picks for 51st Annual GRAMMY Awards

When: 8-11:30 p.m. Sunday on CBS (live from The Staples Center in Los Angeles)

Performances: U2; Kid Rock; Robert Plant & Alison Krauss; Rihanna; The show itself should be entertaining with a slew of live performances including a rare television spot by Radiohead, superstar rapper T.I. with Justin Timberlake, and Dave Grohl back on the drums with Paul McCartney. It airs 8 p.m. Sunday on CBS.

Here are picks and predictions

Album of the Year: Robert Plant & Alison Krauss' "Raising Sand" because it was not only a beautifully made record, but it's the only one that crosses genres.

Record of the Year: Coldplay ("Viva La Vida") and Plant-Krauss ("Please Read the Letter") clash again in this category, with relative newcomers Adele ("Chasing Pavements"), Leona Lewis ("Bleeding Love"). I'm guessing Plant-Krauss again, and it's a beautiful song, but the one with the biggest wow-factor is M.I.A.'s "Paper Planes," an alt-hip-hop dance track with a sly vocal. Clash sample and that distinctly clever chorus with the gunshot and cash register.

Song of the Year: Estelle and Kanye West on "American Boy," which should win this one.

Best Rock Song: Death Cab for Cutie's "I Will Possess Your Heart."

Best Rock Album: Kings of Leon's "Sex on Fire," which would be a better song if the chorus wasn't "your sex is on fire."

Best Rock Album: Is Coldplay nominated in every category or what? Here it's up against Metallica, Kid Rock, Kings of Leon and The Raconteurs. Not easy comparing those five. Coldplay probably gets it, but I'd go Metallica because "Death Magnetic" was a crushing return to form.

Best Alternative Music Album: Death Cab for Cutie, Gnarls Barkley, My Morning Jacket.

Best Metal Performance: It's not the best song on the album, but most voters will check Metallica's "My Apocalypse" because the seminal metal band is bound for the Rock Hall induction this year.

Best Rap Album: Nas, Jay-Z and Lupe Fiasco are deserving as usual, but "The Carter III" was Lil Wayne's coming-out party and it defined hip-hop in 2008.

Best Country Performance by a Duo or Group With Vocals: It's going to be tough for the newbies to knock off Brooks & Dunn and Rascal Flatts, but the jubilation Lady Antebellum brings to "Love Don't Live Here" makes it too hard to resist.

Best Country Song: This category has deep-voiced studs Randy Travis, George Strait and Trace Adkins, but the clear standout is Jamey Johnson's "In Color," a moving memoir of a grandfather looking back on his struggles in the Great Depression and the big war.

Producer of the Year, Non-Classical: Rick Rubin went from Neil Diamond to Metallica, which is pretty impressive, but that's topped by Danger Mouse, who was at the helm for three great albums by the Black Keys, Beck and his own Gnarls Barkley.

Best Comedy Album: George Carlin is the sentimental favorite, but he's not around to pick it up, so it would be a blast if it went to HBO's hilarious synth-pop duo Flight of the Conchords. Yess!

As Predicted by Scott Mervis, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette/Mark Humphrey/Associated Press

LISTEN TO THE MUSIC

Doobie Brothers

C _____

B _____

G _____

D 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9

A 9 10 10 10 10 9 10 10 10 9

E 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

C 9 10 10 10 10 10 9

B 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9

G 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9

D 9 9 9 9 9 9 11 11 11 11 9

A 9 10 10 10 10

E 0 0 0 0 0

Everything I say
Meet me in the country for a day
We'll be happy and we'll dance
Woo, gonna dance the night away
If I'm feelin' good to you
Well, you're feelin' good to me
There ain't nothin' we can't do or say
Feelin' good, feelin' fine
Oh, baby, let the music play.

Whoa-oh-whoa, listen to the music, etc.



Alison Krauss and Robert Plant are nominated for their collaboration on Raising Sand.

Don't you feel it growing, day by day
Half the shuffle going to: C#m
People gettin' ready for the news
B A Asus4 A Asus4 A
(at 7th fret) (At 5th fret)
Some are happy, some are sad Gonna let the music
(Return to shuffle)
Play
What the people need is a way to make them smile
It ain't so hard to do if you know how
Gotta get a message, get it on through
Lordy mamba, be here after a while

C#m A
Whoa-oo-whoa Listen to the music
C#m A
Whoa-oo-whoa Listen to the music
C#m A
Whoa-oo-whoa Listen to the music
F# A A Asus4 A Asus4 A A Asus4 A Asus4 A
All the time

Bridge (with flanger)
E D
Like a lazy flowin' river,
A
Surroundin' castles in the sky.
D
And the crowd is growin' bigger,
A
Listenin' for the happy sounds and
I go to let them fly.
Return to verse (and shuffle) and end

Well I know, you know baby

Biography

The Doobie Brothers are an American rock band, best known for hit singles like "Black Water" and "When a Fool Believes". They sold millions of records throughout the 1970s.

Singer, guitarist and songwriter Tom Johnston and drummer John Hartman formed the nucleus of what would become The Doobie Brothers.

Skip Spence of Moby Grape had introduced them to one another in 1969, after Hartman arrived in California determined to meet Spence and join his band.

Johnston and Hartman called their fledgling group Pup and experimented with different line-ups and styles as they performed in and around San Jose, California. They were briefly a

power trio, and briefly worked with a horn section. In 1970 they teamed up with bass player Dave Shogren and singer, guitarist and songwriter Pat Simmons. Simmons had belonged to several area bands and also performed as a solo artist.

He was already an accomplished finger style player by the time he joined. The new band's name, suggested by a northern California friend (apparently as a joke), was taken from a particularly strong following among local chapters of the Hells Angels.

The Doobie Brothers honed their chops by performing live all over California, which was under the title Introducing

the Doobie Brothers) showcased a fuzz-toned, dual lead electric guitars, three-part harmonies and Hartman's frenetic drumming and earned the band a contract at Warner Brothers Records.

At this point in their history, the band's image reflected that of their biggest fans (leather jackets and motorcycles). However, the group's 1971 self-titled debut album departed significantly from that image and their live sound of the period.

The underrated album, which failed to chart, emphasized acoustic guitars and frequently reflected country influences. The bouncy lead-off song "Nobody," the band's first single, has surfaced in their live set several times over the ensuing decades and even appears on the 2004 DVD Live at Wolf Trap