



## UK singer Astrid Brook to perform COUNTRY ROADS at DBU on March 29

**CHAMIKARA WEERASINGHE**  
The Country Music Foundation 17th annual country music festival, Country Roads this year will be held on March 29 at the Dutch Burgher Union (DBU), Colombo 3. The concert will feature prestigious UK singer Astrid Brook who will appear for the concert for the third time.

The festival this year will be an open-air event. It will start from 4.30 pm.

Local bands Anno Domini, Cosmic Rays, Country Revival Band and Sri Lanka's singing sensation Mariazelle are listed to perform at the festival. Flame and Thilan and Buskers Darlen and Leslie have also been listed to perform at Country Roads, 2009.

Astrid will be flown from London to Colombo to perform at the concert with the sponsorship from Sri Lanka Airlines. Save the Nation of UK is sponsoring the event. The proceeds of the concert will go to aid those displaced children in the North and East, said Country Music Foundation President Feizal Samath.

Astrid became the spot-

light of the 16 th Country Road Concert which was held at the Galle Face Hotel in March, 2008 to aid build a library hall for those children in the Eastern Province. She was accompanied on couple of songs by cheerful Amelic Chevalier on bass guitar.



Noel



Mariazelle

Together, they delighted over thousands of local fans at the show who have requested the Country Music Foundation to bring them for the festival this year.

Amelic is unlikely to be present for the show this year, the organizers said. Maverick, the country and western band from Germany, which has performed at the concert for the last 13 years, is also unlikely to participate. As pointed out by Feizal, they could not ensure their participation due to funding related problems.

Astrid, Maverick and Amelic came to the concert last year in spite of their being warned against going to Sri Lanka by their families and friends.

Astrid Brook, a folk singer-songwriter based in London has progressed steadily over the past decade with her twanging of the folk guitar and singing with her twinkling glass-like voice. She has said in a message, that singing voice which lends itself perfectly to her gentle folk style.

This is what Astrid had to say to the media on being asked about why she decided to go to Sri Lanka for the concert in March 2008.

"It would be easy for me



Astrid Brook

to be frightened to go to Colombo. But it is in the darker times that more help is needed.

The tourists were advised not to go to Sri Lanka because terrorists are exploding bombs. So you see, it is not my safety I am frightened of. I want to help those children in need in Sri Lanka. I am grateful to have the opportunity to offer my services as a musician."

He released her new CD "Wild River" recently. "With each physical CD sold, £1 will be donated to Music 4 Children and £1 to the Country Music Foundation in Sri Lanka. These organizations work tirelessly to improve the lives of needy children in Nepal and Sri Lanka," Astrid has said. Feizal said the concert this year will be filled with many acoustic versions of country and western genre and folk music. "These will include country and folk classics of Bob Dylan, Peter Seeger, Eagles, Simon and Gar-

funkel," he said. "All artists are keen to give one hundred per cent at the concert." About local bands and singers to perform at the 17 th annual festival of Country Roads.

Cosmic Rays, Tyrone Peris, 25 years in the industry, Tyrone Peris on main vocals, and guitar. Anno Domini: genres: blues, folk, country and rock. Country Revival Band (CRB), members: CMF President Feizal Samath, Jury Majid and a few friends who love to play for a cause. They assemble every year for this charity concert, their fortieth in traditional country music. The Country Roads atmosphere will be set up on a picnic setting filled with pony rides, a BBQ, food and beverage stalls and games for children.

There will be prizes and surprises. Tickets will be available at the gate on the day of the show and at selected Food City outlets.

## Hi folks

Finding one's rhythm in performing one's day-to-day tasks is as important as in finding one's rhythm in music

When a cricket commentator says that a bowler or a batsman has found his rhythm, he means that the player is performing well and properly. This means he is in tune with the game and is confident.

In music, meter or rhythm enforces discipline into a musical piece.

An idea of a lyricist is also based on a basic rhythmic meter. Rhythm is often determined by strong and weak beats which are sounded by a drummer in a unified way.

However, it must not be forgotten that rhythm is also found in a tune or a musical sentence even without the presence of strong and weak beats.

A lyricist may not be a musician, but he should have a good sense in rhythm in order to compose a song. So you better keep within the periphery of rhythm.

Chamikara

## MANIC MONDAY

- Bangles

D G D G  
Six o'clock already, I was just in the middle of a dream  
G D G  
I was kissing Valentino by a crystal blue Italian str em  
D G D G  
But I can't be late, 'cos then I guess I just won't get paid  
D A7 D  
These are the days when you wish your bed was already made  
CHORUS

D G D G  
Have to catch an early train, have to be to work by nine  
D G D G  
And if I had an aeroplane, I st ill couldn't make it  
on time  
D G

'Cos it takes me so long just to figure out what im gonna wear  
D G D  
Blame it on the train, but the boss is already there  
D G  
Its just another manic monday  
D G

I wish it was sunday  
D G  
'Cos thats my fun-day  
G D  
My I don't have to run-day  
G A7 D  
Its just another manic monday

Bm E7  
All of the nights, Why did my lover have to pick  
last night  
to get down  
G A

Doesn't it matter that I have to feed the both of us,  
employments down  
G E7  
He tells me in his bedroom voice  
A

C'mon honey, lets go make some noise  
A7  
Time it goes so fast when you're having fun  
D G  
Its just another manic monday...  
D G

I wish it was sunday  
D G  
'Cos thats my fun-day  
G D  
My I don't have to run-day  
G A7 D  
Its just another manic monday

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Susanna Hoffs, Debbi Peterson and Vicki Peterson

The Bangles, four southern California girls who met by chance in the early 80's via a newspaper who eventually topped the charts with classic hits "Manic Monday," "Walk Like An Egyptian" and "Eternal Flame."

## Punsanda Paaya, Mega MAF musical next Sunday

'Punsanda Paaya' 2009 the much anticipated mega musical variety show will come alive after a lapse of four years on Sunday March 29, 2009 at Ummul Maleeha Memorial Hall (UMMH), Keselwatte from 6.30 p.m.

Elaborate arrangements have been made to hold the show with a difference, the organizers, Moratuwa Arts Forum said.

The band "Spirit" will play the signature tune, "Sinhara Moratuwa Game" at the start. The show would roll on to a precise theme with the novelty created by co-chairmen Lucky Deva and Shiraz Sagar of the organising committee.

Nissanka Wimalasuriya of Wheels Colombo fame will join Spirit adding value to the band.

Sunil and Piyal Perera of Gypsies, C. L. Fonseka, Paul Fernando, Christopher Paul, Nihal Nelson, Saman de Silva, Derrick de Silva of Crystal Set, Lincoln de Silva, Viranjani and Eranjan Perera of Super Pink N Purple, Clinton

Fernando of Wheels Combo fame, Priya Peris with Labambas, Merrill Fernando of Amigos Romantics fame, Tilak Perera, Nihal Fernando, Jagath Devapriya and Pimal Fernando (formerly of Golden Chimes), Sureshni Wanigasooriya (formerly of 'X' permanent), Lilanthi Jayaratne, Rita Bertus, the

The event is envisioned to raise funds to promote amateur talent

Trio Brian Coorey, Ivan de Silva and Hiran Fernando of Pink & Purple fame will perform.

Chandani Silva will take over and emulate her father late Mr. Freddie Silva and join up with Dilshan Sampath to do a comedy song.

Don Guy would do a creation to bring laughter and a bevy of MAF dancers Rupika Sutherland, Janadhari Salgado, Varuni Coorey, Kainani Fernando and Neluka Wickremasekera will promote dancing.

Hemaka Fernando, Lakma Salgado, Christmal Wanasuriya and Lanka Perera will compete.

The event is envisioned to raise funds for the forum to promote amateur talent by providing funds for their welfare.

'Punsanda Paaya' - 2009 project committee are Lucky Deva and Shiraz Sudar, Rupika Sutherland, Jagath Devapriya, Pimal Fernando, Dilshan Sampath, Tilak Perera, Lloyd Fernando, Brian Coorey, Nihal Fernando, Hemaka Fernando, Eranjan Perera, Laksiri Fernando, the President of the Moratuwa Arts Forum, Anuradha Mendis, Secretary and Suranga Fernando the Treasurer.

The project committee invites all music lovers to join in to enjoy a fun filled evening and let loose your stressful work environment.

Tickets will be available at Multi Pharmacy, Rawatawate, Leonard's Holy Cross Junction, Nishani Video, Old Galle Road, Moratuwa, Milk House, Idama and Multiya Pharmacy, Soysapura.

## Irish rock vets return in full force

March 19th, 2009

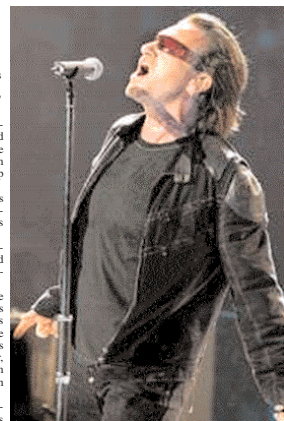
A rhythmically diverse album is almost as essential to a college student's road trip as a car. U2's "No Line on the Horizon" is no exception.

Varying beats and a natural flow between fast-paced songs and ballads make the band's 12th studio album the quintessential road-trip soundtrack.

U2 reminds audiences why the band remains relevant more than 30 years after its formation.

It manages to retain elements of its signature sound in the process of reinventing itself.

The title track starts the album off with a bang, as bassist Adam Clayton fades a heavy low beat into the up-tempo song. Bono's voice is stronger than ever, sounding much as it did on the 1987 U2 staple "With Or Without You."



Bono of U2

The second track, "Magnificent," keeps the album's fast pace like a freeway. It features synthesizers, a Middle Eastern-influenced guitar line and a surprising-

The music lets listeners picture themselves hitting the gas to the country-like twang of "Stand Up Comedy," taking in the view to the mellow rhythms of "White as Snow" and "Cedars of Lebanon"

track, "Moment of Surrender." With a backing of light organs and heavy piano, the song gives The Edge a chance to show off his smooth guitar skills to accompany the band's beautiful four-part harmony. The slow and relaxed vibe continues on "Unknown Caller," as Bono uses his falsetto to ease the listener into the song.

The song flows into the next track, "If I Go Crazy Tonight," but the CD truly kicks into gear with "Get On Your Feet."

Awards, this is arguably the most catchy song of the CD. Bono's cadence and The Edge's raw and buzzing guitar are similar to those of "Vertigo" from their last album, 2004's "How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb."

"Get On Your Feet" easily serves as the exciting final leg to the musical journey with its steady thump of drums.

Overall, "No Line on the Horizon" is strong in its mix of relaxed and thoughtful slow songs with upbeat and danceable ones, making it an album that will easily take the listener on one musical coast to the next.

The music lets listeners picture themselves hitting the gas to the country-like twang of "Stand Up Comedy," taking in the view to the mellow rhythms of "White as Snow" and "Cedars of Lebanon" (the most melancholy track on the album, and perhaps a subtle dig at the wars in the Middle East), and looking out over a city skyline to "Breathe caption for picture, Jerry Lewis 'Black Joe Boots,' as Bono is previewed at the opening of this year's Grammy with his band, The Honey-