



Hi folks... Jobs or skills?

Hoteliers and pub owners display a significant tendency to import foreign bands from other countries such as Thailand and Philippines to run their clubs and pubs. These are mostly female front line singers who do a fantastic job of singing once they are brought here on contract. These are full time singers who are dedicated to their work, one has to agree. And one also gets to see them performing with local bands that play at hotels. Filipino songstress are also open hearted and communicates very well with their audiences during a session, which makes everything to flow in place, with more crowds coming in to get themselves entertained by the band. A few local bands too do that with success, but one must also agree that our female vocalists are a little bit into themselves who make other people happy. And in order to make others happy, they have to be happy. How can we make others happy when we are not happy as musicians? The most hotels do not provide the musicians with the opportunity to perform with freedom of movement. The clubs do not have a stage or platform for the musicians. I went through this problem more than I should have. How can one perform without the liberty to hold one's instruments.

Wildfire splits Derek into band managing

CHAMIKARA WEERASINGHE



It is necessary for a musician to get his own satisfaction as he does his job to entertain the people.

Leaving bands is nothing new to musicians for they are inclined to get bored or be indifferent towards their bands at one point or another. Some tend to leave their outfits out of frustration. Some because they have their own agendas. Some because they had enough. A similar fate must have fallen on Wildfire that disbanded recently after its main figure Derek Wikramanayake announcing that he had to leave it at that. Surprisingly, he has left the band at a time it was doing well and was rated above other bands in the business. Was it due to Derek's indifference towards Wildfire that did it or would that be due to other reasons? As Derek explained it to *In Tune*, it was not the band that left him. "The band didn't leave me," he said, "I dispersed the band because I needed a break."

What happened to Derek after leaving the band? He has turned into a full time manager of several bands following the split. Among the bands managed by him are Rebels, D/B/M, Sixth Dimension, Gavin Senn Quartet, Third Rock, Soul, and Jags Quartet, a jazz band. Most of these bands play at the Pool Site of Mount Lavinia Hotel and Cinnamon Grand, Colombo. Also, Derek continues to do gigs with Shafi and Kevin in the hotel circuit. He performs with DBM, with Bonny and Malls on Thursdays at Mount Lavinia Pool Site. In the meantime, the members of Wildfire have joined other music bands following the breakup. Following is an interview with Derek by the *In Tune*, his first after the breakup of Wildfire.

Q. What prompted Derek to leave Wildfire in spite of its dominance in the local Western music scene as one of the most successful pop, rock and dance bands?

D. To be number one has little or no meaning here unless you play those popular songs that everybody know. You are compelled to play something that they already know, or you are out of business. If you do a song that they did not know, they would ask you with disrespect, "hey what was that. We have never heard of that," as if it was the cardinal mistake of the day no matter how well you played it.



Derek

Q. Do you were out of the country after the band's split. Weren't you?

D. Yes, I went to Switzerland to see Ricardo and Tibo, my two sons and granddaughter Victoria. I was taking a respite did a few gigs in Switzerland. Also met my old friends.

Q. You were a number one band in the Western music scene...

D. I think what they really do not understand is that the musicians are people who make other people happy. And in order to make others happy, they have to be happy. How can we make others happy when we are not happy as musicians? The most hotels do not provide the musicians with the opportunity to perform with freedom of movement. The clubs do not have a stage or platform for the musicians. I went through this problem more than I should have. How can one perform without the liberty to hold one's instruments.

and night clubs where the bands get to play?

D. In most places there is hardly enough space for the musicians to play. This was something terrible as far as I was concerned. How can you play your music without freedom. Are you supposed to get numb after playing music? I cannot enjoy or play where there is congestion for musicians or music. It is not fair. Not much, but little freedom is necessary with a bit of understanding. There was one hotel which refused to highlight the presence of the band with lighting. I simply could not comprehend the logic behind this for anyone in the world have agreed that the band should be lit. The hotels anywhere in the world make special arrangements to highlight the presence of the band.

Q. Do you mean that they do not see the importance of that?

D. I think what they really do not understand is that the musicians are people who make other people happy. And in order to make others happy, they have to be happy. How can we make others happy when we are not happy as musicians? The most hotels do not provide the musicians with the opportunity to perform with freedom of movement. The clubs do not have a stage or platform for the musicians. I went through this problem more than I should have. How can one perform without the liberty to hold one's instruments.

Q. How did you come to manage bands?

D. I was one of the judges at TNL On Stage, and saw this young outfit called the Rebels. They performed commercial songs whereas the other bands performed rock and pop. They were playing contemporary music. I offered to manage them which they agreed to. They were very talented and I thought with the right kind of guidance they could go a long way. There are more band coming in.



Rebels



Cuts Like a Knife - Bryan Adams

Intro: D | G C9 | D | G C9 | x2
play with riff

Riff:
E-----
E-----
G-9-11-9h11-9-7-7/9-4-7-2h4-2
D-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0
A-----
E-----

Verse 1:

D Driving home this evening
G C9 D G C9
D Coulda sworn we had it all worked out
D G C9 D G C9
D You had this boy believing way beyond a shadow of a doubt
D
Then I heard it on the street
G C9 D G C9
D I heard ya might of found somebody new
D G C9 D
Well who is he baby - who is he and tell me what he means to you

Bridge 1:

A Bn
D I took it all for granted - but how was I to know
G C9 G
D That you'd be letting' go

Chorus:

D G C9 D G C9
D G C9 D G C9
D Now it cuts like a knife - but it feels so right
D G C9 D G C9



It cuts like a knife - but it feels so right

Verse 2: same as verse 1

Bridge 2: same as bridge 1

(Chorus)
D G C9 D G (Fill) C9
Na na naaa na na na na na na
D G C9 D G C9
Na na naaa na na na na na na

(Bridge 1)

(Chorus) play quietly same as above chorus

Malawi SC to hear Madonna's failed second child appeal

The Malawi Supreme Court will next month hear an appeal by US pop diva Madonna over the star's failed bid to adopt a second child, a court official said Monday. High court registrar Joseph Chigona said three judges in Blantyre will hear the appeal filed earlier this month after a court turned down Madonna's request to adopt a three-year-old girl.

"The hearing is set for May 4," he said. Madonna's Malawian lawyer Alan Chinula said he had filed several grounds for appeal, including that Madonna, who already adopted a Malawian toddler David Banda three years ago, would have given Chifundo Mercy James a 'good life'.

Llongwe high court Judge Esmie Chombo threw out the application, saying the courts could facilitate trafficking of children by some unscrupulous individuals.

Foreigners seeking to adopt in Malawi must be resident in the southern African nation for at least 18 months — a requirement the judge said was a "bedrock" of adoption petitions.

This requirement was waived by another judge when Madonna, 50, adopted David leading to accusations that she had used her fame and wealth to fast-track the process. **BLANTYRE, April 20 (AFP)**



Popular funeral music in Britain Hallelujah or Highway to Hell? Songs to die for

Frank Sinatra's 'My Way' was the most popular song played at funeral services, but other more arresting death-bed choices were revealed in a poll published in Britain Thursday. Australian rockers AC/DC's 'Highway to Hell' has stormed into the funeral charts along with Queen's 'Another One Bites The Dust', while Leonard Cohen's 'Hallelujah' has a new lease of life after its recent success on a talent show. More traditionally, hymns including 'The Lord Is My Shepherd' and 'All Things Bright And Beautiful' are among music chosen by people to accompany their final journey. For classical music fans, Schubert's 'Ave Maria', Puccini's 'Nessun Dorma' and Bach's 'Air On A G String' are among the most chosen pieces to comfort their loved ones as they pay final farewells. Television and radio music also features on the burial playlist: theme tunes from popular programmes like 'Top Gear', 'The Benny Hill Show'

and even the Radio Four Shipping Forecast music, which many fall asleep to at night. "As more people choose non-religious funerals, so they incline towards contemporary songs with which they closely identify," said Lorinda Sheasby of the funeral company which commissioned the survey. While hymns and classics may have been traditional favourites, pop songs now account for more than half of the music chosen as people's final soundtrack, according to the poll of over 30,000 funerals. Here are some of the top pieces of music chosen in Britain, according to the poll commissioned by Co-operative Funeralcare.

Top 5 popular songs: 1. 'My Way' - Frank Sinatra/Shirley Bassey. 2. 'Wind Beneath My Wings' - Bette Midler/Celine Dion. 3. 'Time To Say Goodbye' - Sarah Brightman/Andrea Bocelli. 4. 'Angels' - Robbie Williams. 5. 'Over The Rainbow' - Eva Cassidy.

Top 5 hymns: 1. 'The Lord Is My Shepherd'. 2. 'Abide With Me'. 3. 'All Things Bright And Beau-

tiful'. 4. 'Old Rugged Cross'. 5. 'Amazing Grace'.

Top 5 classical pieces: 1. 'Nimrod' from 'Enigma Variations' - Elgar. 2. 'Pie Jesu' from 'Requiem' - Faure. 3. 'Ave Maria' - Schubert. 4. 'Nessun Dorma' - Puccini. 5. 'Canon in D Major' - Pachelbel.

Other chart movers (no ranking): 'Hallelujah' covered by talent show winner Alexandra Burke. 'Bat Out Of Hell - Mezzofop', 'Spirit In The Sky' - Doctor and the Medics. 'Highway To Hell' - AC/DC. **AFP**