

# Sloan hones in on new 30-track album

SLOAN NEVER HEAR THE END OF IT



## Sloan

*Never Hear The End Of It*  
Sony BMG  
www.sloanmusic.com

## RYAN HEISE

Arts & Entertainment Staff

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With The Yoko Casionos  
Saturday, 28 October at 8pm  
Dinwoodie Lounge

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After eleven albums, countless cross-Canada tours and a career that spans nearly 16 years, you might think that Halifax's Sloan is starting to get weary of making music. But speaking frankly about the band's new album and lengthy tenure together, guitarist Jay Ferguson admits that keeping things new and interesting is the key to staying together.

On their most recent album, *Never Hear the End of It*, the band includes an ambitious 30 tracks—an amount that's quite out of the ordinary, but nevertheless allows them to keep things fresh. Ferguson concedes, though, that making a long, eclectic record wasn't done out of necessity; rather, it's always been a desire of his.

"[Bassist Chris Murphy] and I have often fantasized about the idea of making a really long record," Ferguson says. "The idea or the premise was that you could keep the listener interested over a long record just by using so many new things at a rapid pace."

Although the record features many new styles, the album still retains the classic Sloan signature, a sound Ferguson says the band aimed to achieve.

"I guess it was kind of like trying to do an experiment but keeping it within the realm of what we do best, which is writing catchy pop songs and not trying to make a Pink Floyd record,"



Ferguson says. "We were trying to do something that's creative and new out of what we do best."

While recording the new album afforded the band a lot of enterprising space, working the new songs, many of which flow seamlessly into one another, into a set list has posed some interesting problems.

"A lot of them we have been trying to do as segues—a couple in a row and try to do them together," Ferguson says. "The difficult thing is trying to play a lot of the new songs we want to play live, but also to try to play some of our 'oldies.' We're trying to fit everything in, to have a balanced show so it's just not all new

songs and, at the same time, to try to play as many new songs as we can. It's a weird balance."

The band also livened up the recording process by making short films in the studio and posting them to their website almost daily.

"We could have made a documentary and put it out later, but it was kind of fun just to film stuff while we were recording or rehearsing and put it up right away," Ferguson explains. "If I was growing up and my favourite band had a little snippet of them recording their new album online everyday, I'd be there like crazy. It's just something new to put up on the website and provide something for

the fans immediately, which I like."

Sloan's last visit to Edmonton saw them playing to a very receptive crowd at Rexall Place while opening for the Foo Fighters on their Canadian tour. However, the band opted to play relatively small venues in support of *Never Hear the End of It*. Ferguson admits that the band would like to be able to play large arenas, but admits it isn't the size of the show that matters.

"There are some places that we're playing that are even smaller than the Dinwoodie and they've already sold out," Ferguson says. "Maybe we could play some bigger venues, but if it's sold out, it'll be an exciting show, and that's all I really care about."

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