

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Zappa Plays Zappa

Friday, 23 November at 7pm
Jubilee Auditorium

While Dweezil may seem like an odd name, compared to the other Zappa siblings Moon Unit, Ahmet Emuukha Rodan, and Diva Thin Muffin Pigeen, it's downright dull and unoriginal. The oldest Zappa son is a recording artist like his famous father Frank, and he's organized the Zappa Plays Zappa tour for the second consecutive year to give new generations a taste of his father's music live.

This series has been hailed as the greatest concert ever performed by a musician who's both had his own cooking show on the Food Network and voiced cartoon mallard Ajax Duckman on *Duckman*.

The Disciples of the Cambodian Death Brigade

With Keep 6 and Guest
Friday, 23 November at 8pm
Starlite Room

Followers of noted death metal connoisseur Pol Pot, the Disciples will not rest until every rural agrarian attending this concert is brutalized by their powerful onslaught of speed-metal guitars and growled lyrics, leaving only bare, decapitated skulls that have been headbanged to death.

Influenced by Slayer as much as Khmer Rouge, the Disciples celebrate the collectivization of agriculture by figuratively massacring the audience, turning the Starlite Room into the Killing Fields—sans any real killing or the bones of the innocent, of course.

A Northern Chorus

With Team Building
Saturday, 24 November at 8pm
Victory Lounge

In the past, The Northern Chorus has received criticism that they're repetitive, likely due to their chorus-chorus-chorus songwriting structure. The Hamilton group combines straight-ahead rock with a certain degree of spacey experimentalism, somewhat like local E-towners Fractal Pattern, but with vocals and a cello replacing the French horn.

Chick Corea

Saturday, 24 November at 8pm
Winspear Centre

Legendary jazz pianist Chick Corea tickles the ivories at the Winspear this Saturday along with some backup from his Freedom Band. Winner of 14 Grammys, including one in 2007 for Best Jazz Instrumental Album, Corea has had a profound effect on the world of jazz, especially Latin jazz and the more experimental jazz fusion. Sporting a 40-year career, Corea is one of the longest-running jazz acts still touring and is a must-see for any jazz fan.

The Great Russian Swan Lake

Running 26-27 November at 8pm
Jubilee Auditorium

Moscow Ballet is bringing one of the greatest ballets of all time to Edmonton with their performance of *Swan Lake*. The Tchaikovsky ballet tells the story of a Prince who falls in love with a hideous, half-mutated swan maiden. Stunningly beautiful with her elongated neck and webbed feet, the princess, though a swan by day, moonlights as a woman, going through a horrific transformation akin to Jeff Goldblum in *The Fly*.

In a tale both heart-rending and bittersweet, the prince vows to end the curse of the evil sorcerer so he can consummate his ardour with the humanoid, poultry-like freak of nature, despite her constant pleas of "kill me."

JOHN KMECH
Saving Christmas for the second time



Chimaira cherish unions and reunions

Guitarist Rob Arnold is learning to juggle touring life with a wife in Chimaira's *Resurrection*

musicpreview

Chimaira

With *Kataklysm* and *Divine Heresy*
Friday, 24 November at 7pm
Dinwoodie Lounge

PAUL BLINOV
Arts & Entertainment Editor

One sound rarely associated with the headbanging genre of metal is the blissful chime of wedding bells—yet that's exactly what Chimaira guitarist Rob Arnold heard a few months ago when he married his longtime sweetheart. From an outsider viewpoint, the married life seems like the polar opposite of playing in a metal act—what, take the sex out of sex, drugs, and rock & roll?—but Arnold insists it's easier to juggle that you'd expect.

"I'm a faithful dude, and we'd been [dating] for years before I was touring," he explains over the phone. "She knows the game now, so as long as there's trust there, you've got it. She has a career of her own, but she will [come on tour for] a couple of days here and there, either regionally or if she can take a break."

Getting hitched does make touring seem less of a party and more of a stretch, however, especially with Chimaira's increasing popularity—they've managed to develop dedicated pockets of overseas fans. According to Arnold, all it took was a few trips to lay down the foundations of a fan base.

"It helps that we've been over there a quite a few times," he says of foreign fans. "You really can't catch on in Europe or Asia or Japan unless you go there. Obviously, people pick up the records, but it's being there and the word of mouth, and people telling their buddies about you, is what gets the word around."

Chimaira's been working on doing just that for about seven years. Now, with the release of their

latest album, *Resurrection*, the band's seeing a fresh generation of fans embracing their brand of metal—some who aren't familiar with the band's earlier work."

"I've been noticing younger crowds through all the shows we play, or maybe it's that I'm getting older," Arnold says. "These younger kids don't really know our prior catalogue, and are there to see us because of *Resurrection*. You can tell with what songs they're singing along to."

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ROB ARNOLD
CHIMAIRA GUITARIST

Resurrection is aptly titled: it marks the return of original drummer Andols Herrick to the band's line-up. Herrick had dropped out of Chimaira a few years ago to sort his life out. In the years between, Chimaira went through a slew of other drummers, but nobody quite fit into the band's chaotic style like Herrick did.

For him, [leaving] was kind of an awakening for him; the ol' "You don't what you got until it's gone," Arnold recalls. "He was kind of falling apart before he left the band just because of the perfectionist that he is. His mind was in other places with his girlfriend at the time, and it was affecting his playing."

"Bringing him back was great; the whole vibe of the band was united once again," he continues. "He was the missing piece for those couple of years; we went through some drummer changes. Now, his role in the band is basically to make sure he sticks around."

The album also marked a label departure for the band, who left Roadrunner Records before

its release. Not that this disheartened the band; they'd been trying to split with the record label for some time.

"For months, we'd been asking to let go," Arnold explains. "We still owed them a couple of records in our contract, but we were going with the angle, 'C'mon, if you love something, let it go.'"

"We knew that we had more potential on a label where we could be more [of a] focus," he continues. At Roadrunner, we were the bottom of the totem pole when you got bands like Nickelback selling tons of records, and we weren't a priority anymore."

"While we understood that, We didn't want that to be our destiny. So after a few months of pleading and pulling some favours and having some guys get in our corner at Roadrunner, they were able to talk to the higher-ups and get us out of our deal—just wiped the slate clean."

The band soon signed to Ferret Records, and, united by new label and classic lineup, Chimaira released *Resurrection*. In addition to bringing a younger crowd to their concerts, it's the balance between metal and melody that Arnold always wanted to make.

"From the beginning, we set out to be a heavy band that can make you bob your head and feel the groove," he says. "At the same time, we just like to have fun, and I think people see that, and see the realism of [us], and that's what really creates longevity in fans."

While Chimaira's managed to gather even more acclaim as time goes on, Arnold has to admit that touring isn't quite what it used to be. With a wife waiting at home, his priorities have shifted from touring to recording and writing music closer to home.

"In my earlier days, I definitely preferred being on the road more and just jamming and having a good time. But now that I'm getting a little older—I've got a wife and a house—I prefer the studio side of things," he admits. "I still love touring, but it doesn't have the same ease that it did back then."