Eve 6 member decides to join the family business

Tony Fagenson isn't like other kids. As a high school student in Los Angeles, the now 19-year-old rebelled against his family by not getting into music.

"There was a long time that I didn't want to go into music actually. It must have been a child rebellion thing or something like that," he said with a laugh.

"My dad and my step-mom were in the music industry and I thought, 'That's being done.' Then eventually with all the people around me being into music, I thought it might be something in my genes also."

Fagenson's father is Oakland County native and Grammy Award-winning producer Don Was. He identified his stepmother as a woman who works in Virgin Records' A&R department.

Fagenson and his friends Max Collins and Jon Siebels, both of whom are 18, are following in his father's footsteps with Eve 6, a mouth-watering pop rock band whose self-titled debut has spawned the hit "Inside Out."

Short spurts of guitars coupled with bassist Max Collins' hummable lyrics "I would swallow my pride /I would choke on the rhines/ But the lack thereof would leave me empty inside" made "Inside Out" a recent WXDG "Shriek of the Week."

"Leech" grasps the same characteristics while Collins shares his knack for writing crafty lyrics: "sucking on my brain/ You're the teacher/ I'm the student/ Turning things around/ Your story's not congruent." "Superhero Girl" is a supercharged pop gem.

Eve 6, named for an "X-Files" character who gouged her guard's eyeball with her teeth, was formed in 1993 by La Crescenta Valley High School students Collins and guitarist/vocalist Jon Siebels. While still at La Crescenta Valley the duo was signed to RCA Records. About 1-1/2 years ago, the blonde-streaked Fagenson joined Eve 6.

When Fagenson was approached to join Eve 6, he was "actually in college. I went to USC for a little more than a semester. I've always done a lot of music stuff. In high school I was in jazz band, I had a couple rock bands. I did a lot of recording in the home studio; finding my own way through the studio."

"I was kind of lost in college. I was not really sure what I wanted to do."

Fagenson added that Eve 6 "was signed before they met me or knew who my dad was. Max the singer had written a lot of the lyrics by then and had some of the basic melodies and stuff."

Eve 6 went into pre-production about a year ago and wrapped up the album in August. Fagenson explained that the three-year lapse in recording and releasing an album was the band's choice.

"I wasn't really part of the band when they got signed but the record company knew that they were not ready to put out a record right away. They gave us time to develop and really get the songs together and stuff."

"It's extremely exciting. No one thought things would happen so quickly. It's really come into place. Everything that's had to happened has happened. It's like clockwork."

Fagenson was born in the Detroit area and lived in Birmingham until the age of 5 when his family moved to Manhattan. Fagenson spent most of his formative years in Los Angeles.

With singers like Bonnie Raitt working with his father, Fagenson said that his father's career taken as a whole was inspirational.

"I can't say there were instances where afterward I said, 'I have to do music because I met someone.' I went to the studio a couple times but it wasn't like I ever went in and said 'Wow, this what I want to.' It was independent of that."

Eve 6 opens for Third Eye Blind and Our Lady Peace Thursday, July 2, at the Phoenix Plaza Amphitheatre, 10 Water St. (at Saginaw Street), Pontiac. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for the all-ages show. Tickets are still available. For more information, call (248) 335-4850 or visit http://www.961melt.com.

Playing Pontiac: *The rock band Eve 6 – from left, Jon Siebels, Max Collins and Tony Fagenson, the son of Don Was – performs Thursday, July 2, at the Phoenix Plaza Amphitheatre in Pontiac opening for Third Eye Blind and Our Lady Peace.*

Liquid Soul added to Montreux lineup

The 1998 Ford Montreux Detroit Jazz Festival has added acid-jazz sensation Liquid Soul to its line up.

Liquid Soul will close out the free Labor Day weekend jazz festival 9:45 p.m. Monday, Sept. 7 on the festival's Hudson's/Live Jazz Stage.

The 10-piece Chicago group led by saxophonist Mars Williams, plays a mix of jazz, funk, hip-hop, rap and salsa that pushes jazz back onto the dance floor.

Liquid Soul has received rave reviews for its second CD "Make Some Noise."

The Ford Montreux Detroit Jazz Festival features more than 120 acts, all free of charge, one five stages at Hart Plaza in downtown Detroit, noon to 11 p.m. Sept. 4-7. For more information and a complete schedule, call (313) 963-7622.

Here are some other jazz festivals of note:

■ Michigan Jazz Festival – noon to 11 p.m. Sunday, July 19 at Botsford Inn, 28000 Grand River (at 8 Mile Road), Farmington Hills.

Highlights – Four big bands, at least 12 small groups, trombone ensemble, and SCool JAzz from Schoolcraft College performing on four stages. Botsford Inn offers food and beverages for sale throughout the day and evening. For more information: Call (248) 474-2720 or (248) 437-9468

■ Birmingham Jazzfest '98 – Thursday-Saturday, July 23-25, downtown Birmingham at Shain Park, and most of the area's restaurants.

Highlights – Free concerts in Shain Park beginning with flutist Alexander Zonjic. For more information: Call the Jazzfest hotline, (248) 433-FEST.

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