

Don't look now — Reindeer Section invades Glasgow

STREET SCENE



STEPHANIE A. CASOLA

When forming a supergroup with 16 musicians, getting the entire band together to perform a show sounds impossible. The Reindeer Section hasn't appeared live with a complete line up yet. Featuring various members

The Reindeer Section

Gary Lightbody is listening to:

- Kidd Dynamo
- Ian Archer
- Laeto
- Low
- Slade
- T-Rex
- DJ Laurent Garner
- And You Will Know Us By The Trail of Dead
- The White Stripes
- The Strokes

An element of spontaneity went into this record. Some of the musicians had just popped their heads into the studio for a listen, and were handed an instrument or microphone.

In the Section, Gary Lightbody is accompanied by John Cummings (Mogwai, guitar), Jenny Reeve (Eva, violin and vocals), Colin Macintyre (Moll Historical Society, vocals), Aidan Moffat (Arab Strap, vocals), Jonny Quinn (Snow Patrol, drums), Mick Cooke (Belle and Sebastian, trumpet), Richard Colburn (Belle and Sebastian, various instruments), Gill Mills (BBC Radio, vocals), Michael Bannister (piano), Willy Campbell (Astrix, guitar and vocals), Charlie Clarke (Mogwai, guitar), Gareth Russell (Astrix, bass), Bob Kilden (Belle and Sebastian, V-Twin, guitar) and Roy Kerr (drums).

Bright Star Recordings
When it came time to release a record, the choice was easy — a new label based in his hometown of Belfast called Bright Star Recordings. "I'd known Johnny Davis for ages," said Lightbody. "We're their first sort of proper release. We came in just at the right time and helped each other. They were really enthusiastic. They've done it the right way."

Lightbody takes the reins in this band, right down to the cover artwork on *Ya'll Get Scared Now, Ya Hear!* The blue and gold "evil reindeer" are his own creation. Though he admits

it's not far from stick figure art, the little mascots add a playful quality to a record of unrivaled beauty.

Live, the band might not have it all together. Lightbody admits "we were a bit shambolic to be honest." He describes the show-to-date as "good fun," though, and isn't that the point?

Focused

Lightbody was drawn to music listening to bands like Nirvana. "It was his angst, but I could just tell he slept and drank music," he said. "I just saw passion in him and I wanted it so much. I'm not very good at anything else. Playing the guitar, that was me. I've not had any formal training."

It started with an inexpensive guitar he received at Christmas time, age 12. Now, Lightbody said, "I don't know what I'd do without it — listening to it, playing it — I love everything."

And he does mean everything. One peek at Lightbody's record collection reveals an eclectic mix. From Stevie Wonder to Roberta Flack, Tool to Fleetwood Mac, the Deftones to Nina Simone, he's garnered quite an array of music.

"Music is more important than anything else," he said. "Everything else is secondary. If you're gonna be passionate about something, you've gotta do it."

The big question remains, will The Reindeer Section ever make it over the pond for an American tour?

"We're going to do the next record in America," said Lightbody. "We might do some shows while we're over there."

Stephanie Angelyn Casola writes about popular music for the *Observer & Eccentric* News-papers. She'll be waiting. In the meantime she can be reached at (734) 953-2130 or e-mail at scasola@ec.eccentric.com.

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