

Our lady charity

Chantal Kreviazuk and Raine Maida record a brand-new song for the One X One gala

Can-rock husband-and-wife team Raine Maida and Chantal Kreviazuk flowed into Toronto's Carlu theatre recently for the second annual One X One benefit gala.

Kreviazuk, Our Lady Peace's Maida and Canadian musicians Sam Roberts, Gord Downie, the Payolas, Buck 65, Sarah Harmer, John Legend and K'naan were all asked to perform at the event to raise money for five children's charities.

The star-studded charity event – founded by Canada's Diesel clothing president, Joelle Adler – also brought out Hollywood heavy hitters. Matt Damon took over hosting duties (from Kate Hudson, last year's host). Even Brad Pitt made a surprise appearance.

But Maida and Kreviazuk's appearance was about much more than celebrity. The pair recorded a song together called *Lebo's River* that includes the voice of Lebo Kgasapane, a South African singer/songwriter who died of AIDS in 2004.

"In a sort of musical eulogy for Lebo, Chantal and I wrote a song around her melody," Maida tells WarChild.ca. "We are also fortunate to have Archie Khambula, one of Lebo's closest friends, appear on the track. We can only hope that her memory and artistic vision have been honoured with this song."

The couple also performed *Lebo's River* on MTV Live! on Sept. 11.

– Jenny Yuen



–WENN

(Above) Kreviazuk (left) and Maida (right) recorded a song together called *Lebo's River*. The song includes the voice of Lebo Kgasapane, a South African singer/songwriter who died of AIDS in 2004.

(Below) Neo-soul singer John Legend also performed at the One X One charity gala.



–WENN



Human Kebab (left) contemplating life with Sean Ward and The Wizard.

–Laura Gallella photo

Magic rock

Jenny Yuen
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You'd never suspect a wizard, a garage monkey and a smooth operator of being the driving force in Toronto's weird hip hop and rock.

But thanks to a Canadian tour in the near future, Wizard of Rock, Human Kebab and Sean Ward could be household names in putting on unconventional live shows.

With word-of-mouth spreading like wildfire and some appearances and name-dropping on alt-rock radio station The Edge, curious low-brow hipsters have been lurking around shows to see what all the fuss is about.

Human Kebab, otherwise known as Jay Parsons, is onstage at The Smiling Buddha Bar on Toronto's College Street, the threesome's venue of choice. His forte is garage rap. It literally started out of his parents' place in Stouf-

"The basis of rock and roll is of ancient magic."

– The Wizard

ville, and he continues to keep the gritty sound intact.

"When I was in high school, I used to buy mix tapes from Yonge and Dundas," he says. "I was the only white kid going in there."

Sure, some of his music is vulgar and sometimes angry and robotic, but at the same time, there's a real comedic flair and honesty of the likes of Wesley Willis to it.

Then there's the Wizard of Rock. For a guy 16,000 years old, he's looking better than Bob Barker. The Wizard claims he invented rock and roll and, after a long slumber, is ready to rock Earth to its core.

"The basis of rock and roll is of ancient magic," he roars,

"the summoning of primal energies that thrive in all life. And those energies can be used for good or evil."

Translation: a helluva party. Mashing classic rock with rave beats and baselines, the Wizard, with full-on purple cloak, cap, white beard and "foolish mortals" attitude, brings a smoke machine, drum machine and sampler with him, and that's all he really needs. The rest is magic.

With an upcoming album this fall, *Time Machine of Party*, his aim for the rock is simple: "I'm going to transform it with a form of alchemy."

For a gentler, more loving way, this quirky MC team has Sean Ward, the comic-book-geek-turned-amateur-TV-star-turned-musician.

"I've taken things to a level of pizzazz and bravado," he says. "The whole point is that anyone can do this too."

FULL STORY: icononline.ca



–bnblog.com

The Barenaked Ladies encourage fans to send their remixes back to the band. The five best will appear on a charity-benefit download.

Naked and royalty-free

There's an inner Barenaked Lady in everyone, apparently.

The Scarborough fivesome came out with a new record Sept. 12 called *Barenaked Ladies Are Me*, their first original album in three years.

According to lead singer Steven Page, it was released in a few different versions: a 13-song physical release; a 15-song digital version and a full-length 29-song version, available online only.

"Right now, we're also offering downloads of the multi-tracks of our new single, *Easy*," Page says. "For free, you can download a four-track version from our Myspace page, or for some money, you can get a fuller version."

Royalties schmoyalties. Barenaked Ladies invites fans to do what they want with the songs, going as far as encouraging people to send their remixes back to the band.

The selected best five will appear on a charity-benefit download.

"I think those days of that wall between the creator and the consumer have to end," Page says to ChartAttack.com.

Barenaked Ladies will start the B.L.A.M. tour in the United States this month.

A full Canadian tour is slated to begin in February.

– Jenny Yuen

Solo Rodeo

"I got the seven-year itch."

– Jim Cuddy

Blue Rodeo's lead bronco, Jim Cuddy, breaks out of the gates with a solo album titled *The Light That Guides You Home*. Toronto's Cuddy takes his solo show on tour nationwide in October.

As those of you with a good memory know, this is actually Cuddy's second solo effort – his gold-selling debut was released eight years ago, in 1998.

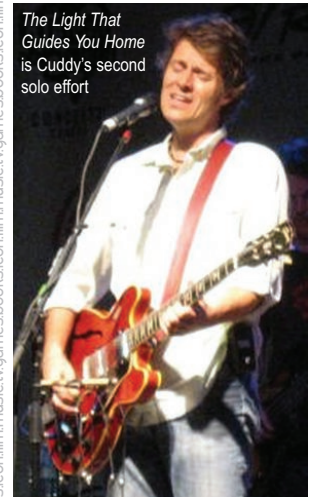
"I got the seven-year itch," he tells JAM! Music about the eight-year wait. "Took me a year, though."

The album came out Sept. 12. It includes the first single, *Pull Me Through*, a ballad about Cuddy's parents' generation, as well as an anti-Bush song and *Married Again*, about a couple who wants to divorce.

"They separate for a while and then they meet up in Vegas to finalize their divorce," Cuddy says. "They finalize their divorce, all very friendly, have a few drinks, have a few more drinks, more drinks, more drinks, wake up in the morning ... married again."

Well, worse things could happen – right, Mr. Gibson?

– Nina Dragicevic



–www.jimcuddy.com



–www.ronsexsmith.com

Second Sexsmith

St. Catharines-born singer and songwriter Ron Sexsmith is bringing a little intimate caffeine kick to the Second Cup Café Music Series.

The Juno award-winning Sexsmith is playing four surprise concerts at Second Cup locations across Canada.

"I respect what Second Cup is doing and look forward to hearing more from the talented artists that are featured in the Café Music Series," Sexsmith says.

– Jenny Yuen