

# STRANGE FOLK



KULA SHAKER  
FANZINE

ISSUE No. 9  
FEB 2016

**Interviews with the band  
All about K2.0  
20 year anniversary of K  
and more...**

**The return  
of Kula Shaker**



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# Hi Strange Folks,

**It's hard to believe**, but I'm writing to you now whilst listening to a new Kula Shaker album!

During the past five years I have often asked myself: Why should we keep the fanzine alive? But oddly enough, the support of the fans rather seemed to grow than to drop off during that time. So we continued, and what can I say – it was sure worth it!

Today we not only celebrate the release of a new album (and what a magnificent album that is!), but also look forward to a full European tour. As I wrote on the Facebook page of the zine a few months ago: Never give up hope, the King will never die as long as we keep him alive! Usually, it is another person (the one with blonde fringes) who comes up with the wise words, but well – this time, I was right, wasn't I?

Since the recording of 'K2.0', the band has had exciting times. Paul and Crispian visited nearly every radio station on this planet, answered the same questions over and over again – and did a brilliant job. For the first time since the 90s it feels like not only the fans, but also the media have realised how much of a genius Kula Shaker are – there are so many wonderful reviews coming in every day, it's hard to believe! So it wasn't arguable that we needed to get our tried and trusted team on board to get a new zine your way. Actually, since Kula Shaker returned in 2006, there had been no album or tour without a fanzine publication. So, amazingly enough, it's not only "K" celebrating its anniversary in 2016... Even if we don't reach 20 years with STRANGE FOLK, it is still ten years ago since we published the very first issue of the one and only Kula Shaker fanzine!

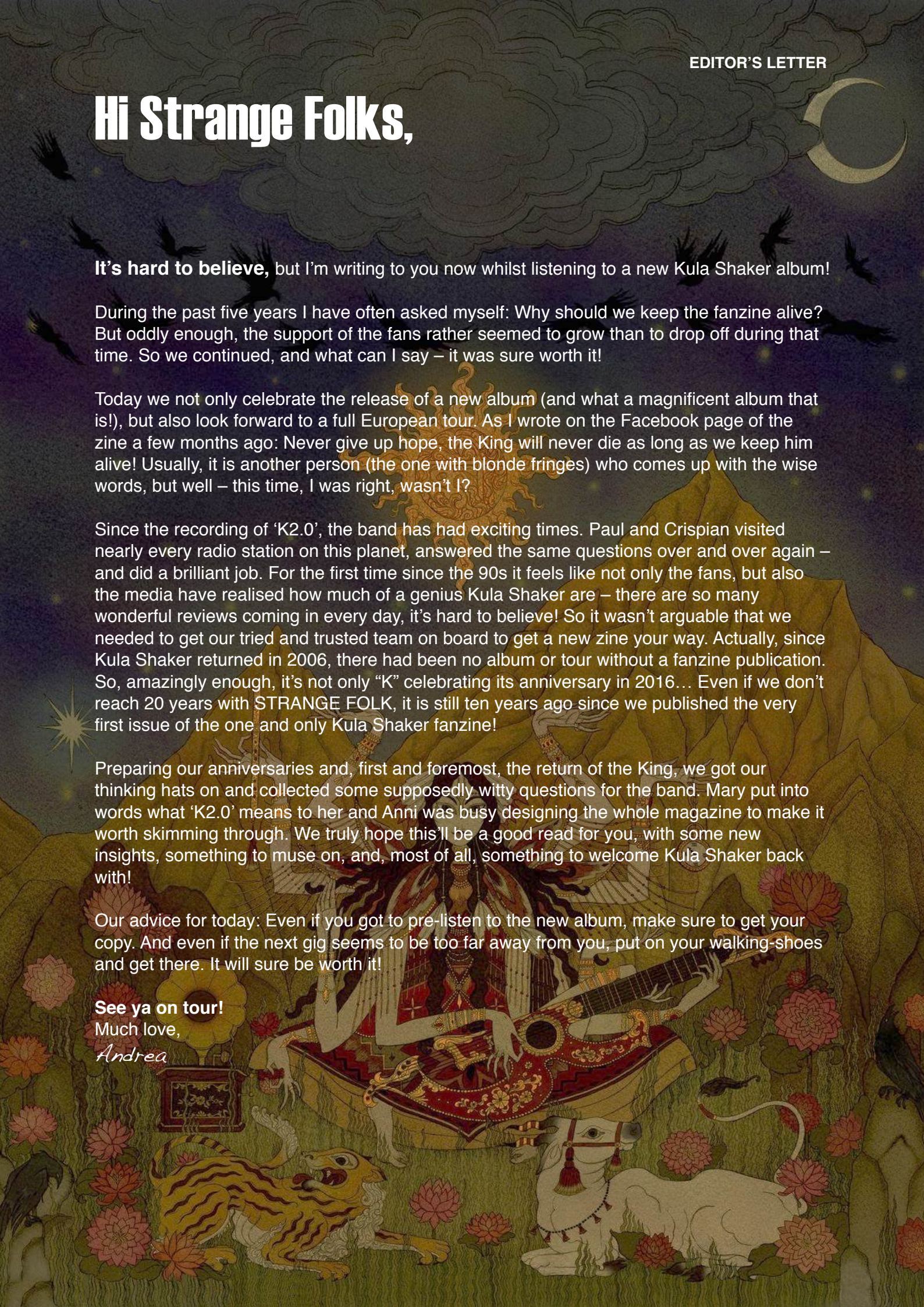
Preparing our anniversaries and, first and foremost, the return of the King, we got our thinking hats on and collected some supposedly witty questions for the band. Mary put into words what 'K2.0' means to her and Anni was busy designing the whole magazine to make it worth skimming through. We truly hope this'll be a good read for you, with some new insights, something to muse on, and, most of all, something to welcome Kula Shaker back with!

Our advice for today: Even if you got to pre-listen to the new album, make sure to get your copy. And even if the next gig seems to be too far away from you, put on your walking-shoes and get there. It will sure be worth it!

**See ya on tour!**

Much love,

*Andrea*







# K2.0 – A classic in the making?

By Mary Nilsson

**It has been 20 years** this coming Autumn since Kula Shaker released their double platinum debut album 'K'. With its amazing blend of traditional 'Indian Mysticism' along with good old psychedelic rock, it was an absolute opus of an album that separated Kula Shaker from their musical peers within the Brit Pop culture of the time. Since 1996, we have seen 3 other albums from Kula Shaker, namely 'Peasants, Pigs & Astronauts' (1999), 'Strange Folk' (2007), and more recently, the beautiful and mellow 'Pilgrim's Progress' (2010).

So, with an absence of almost 6 years, Kula Shaker now proudly give us their new album, which 20 years on from 'K', is aptly named '**K2.0**'. Some have wondered about the choice of the title, but I personally think it is quirky, and seems to fit in nicely in an ever increasing digital world. Not only that, but if we think closely about mountains, does the name 'K2' (from the Karakoram Mountain range) mean anything to anyone? Clearly the name was carefully chosen, and the name of the album seems as much of a spiritual journey as the songs inside seem to represent.





### Infinite Sun

Containing 11 tracks, 'K2.0' gets off to a beautiful start with the song 'Infinite Sun'. When I first heard this song, my opinion was split. The absolute beauty of the blended traditional Indian music along with the excellent rock sound didn't seem to lend itself to the lyrics of the song. It sounded a little corny. However, I am happy to say that the more I listened, the more the song as a whole grew on me. As Alonza mentions in his interview, this song is as old as the original 'K', and clearly has a lot of meaning to the band. Once the song gets under your skin (and trust me, it will), it touches the soul and of course, gets happily stuck in your head, leaving you wanting more, especially if you watch the video!

### Holy Flame

Following on from 'Infinite Sun' is 'Holy Flame'. It is an immediate hit. There is nothing that I don't like about this track. It has a deep feel of affection and sounds like it was written during a session of fond reminiscence. Not sure where it was written, but I would understand if it was

written in Belgium – the studio does lure you into a sense of contentment, where one can sit and watch the world go by, and in every sense of the word a definite place for creativity! The song itself has been compared to Blur's 'Coffee & TV', and I can see how that reviewer came to that conclusion. It has that happy upbeat tone which again gets into your head.

### Death of Democracy

The third track on this album, entitled 'Death of Democracy' reminds me of John Lennon's 'Working Class Hero', although the actual tune itself is much more upbeat than Mr Lennon's classic. I don't think I can say anything bad about how beautifully presented the song is. On first listen, it sounds like a ballad about Greek Mythology, but when one listens more closely to the lyrics, they are tinged with a deep sadness that seems to reflect a lot of the current difficulties experienced in our modern society. Whilst it has a fabulous rhythm, the song has a lasting effect, with lyrics that linger in your mind long after the song has finished. Definitely one to nip at the conscience!



### Love B (with U)

'Love B (with U)' has an immediate effect on you. Due to the pace, and the happy-clappy sound, I couldn't help but think about Pharrell Williams 'Happy', when I first heard it, but with a wicked piano to accompany it, 'Love B (with U)' is sure to be a crowd pleasure at live gigs! A very positive sounding track, and seems completely different to what we would normally hear from Kula Shaker. It has an excellent beat that you cannot help but tap your foot to! However, this song is a complete contrast to the following track, which is by far much more epic.

### Here Come My Demons

'Here Come My Demons' - the 5th track on the album - has great meaning to Crispian, as his oldest son came up with the title. A very slow ballad to begin with, we hear the story unfold of a person who is clearly haunted by their own demons. With references that sound like they escaped from the pages of very early fairy tales of times gone by, this song seems to refer to a protagonist who is experiencing his own hell on earth! Eventually, the music builds up into an epic guitar sound that would be at home on an early 'Rush' album. Beautifully executed, the song flows, working itself into the listeners soul, before taking us back down to a more peaceful finish. It has a perfect start, middle and end – and it's a song that is a huge favourite with the band, and, given the epic status of this song, it will most likely become a firm favourite with the fans too!

### 33 Crows

Moving onto '33 Crows', I have to say that on a personal level, right from the first listen, I really love this song. Sounding like it belongs to a very gentle folk genre, the song sadly seems to be



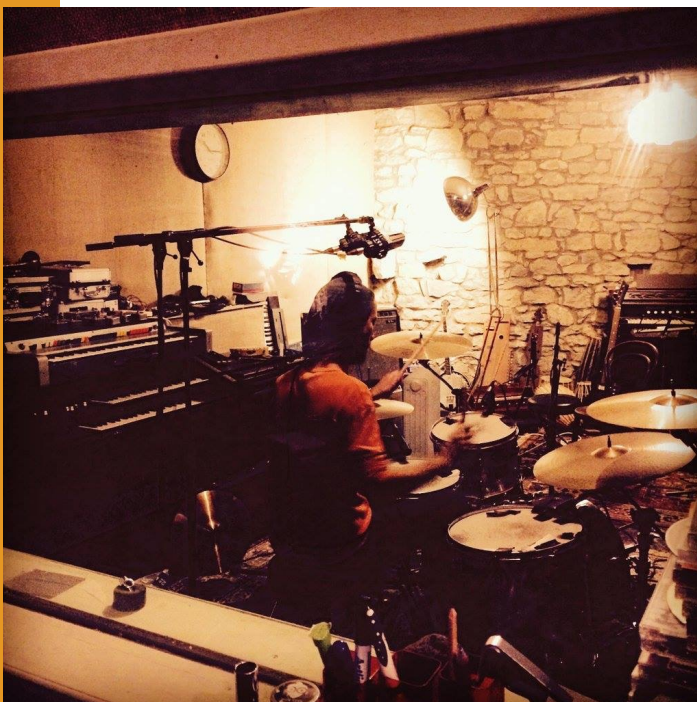
about a lost love. With the introduction of the sitar in the middle of this song, it gives a hauntingly beautiful sound that will be likely to make the listener think of an Indian love ballad, and it most certainly makes the song very much a song which belongs to Kula Shaker. Well done Olivier (who played sitar), you made this song outstanding!

Following '33 Crows', comes '**Oh Mary**'.

Following a short narrative, the song again starts with sitar, suggesting that Kula Shaker are most definitely going back to their musical roots. This song immediately gets under the skin. Mary does sound like a bit of a wild child who has bitten off more than she can chew, but in the end, it seems to work out okay for her. Previous reviews have suggested that there are certain negative religious undertones to this song, but I think that is perhaps looking too deeply into a fun and harmless song. But hey, Mary ends up the Goddess of Love, so she didn't get too bad a break for all her naughtiness. This song is very reminiscent of the music that made us all fall in love with Kula Shaker in the first place, and I think it will stand the test of time with fans.

### High Noon

Moving onto 'High Noon', I think if Quentin Tarantino makes a follow up to 'Django Unchained' or 'The Hateful Eight', then I guess he will have found a soundtrack! This song has a definite Tumblewild vibe to it, so I cannot help but wonder if Alonza took the helm in the writing of this song. It has all the beautiful romanticism that we found in Tumblewild's 'When the World Had Four Corners', however at the same time, takes us back to the instrumental opus 'When a







Brave Meets a Maid' in 2010's album 'Pilgrim's Progress'. Of course, when you hear the song, the old movie 'High Noon' starring Gary Cooper springs to mind, and for me so does the version of the song 'High Noon' sang by Tex Ritter. This is a track that is destined for my favourites on my playlist!

### **Hari Bol (the sweetest sweet)**

With the next track known as 'Hari Bol (the sweetest sweet)' we are treated to a delicate kirtan style devotional song that reminds me of Kula Shaker's alliance with 'The School of Braja'. For me, this devotion is an example of how universal spirituality can be. It is gentle, it touches the soul and is a beautiful expression of love for Lord Krishna. To overanalyse would detract from the simple beauty of the song, which clearly stands out on the new album.

### **Get Right Get Ready**

The penultimate track on the album is 'Get Right Get Ready'. An unusual sound for Kula Shaker in the respect that whilst there are the usual elements such as the blend of rock and sitar, there is also an amazing funk sound flowing through the song. Funk, Rock and Sitar altogether telling us to 'stick it to the man' – this song illustrates a brilliant evolution for Kula Shaker. The song is daring to say the least, I think that it will be likely to appeal out with the usual Kula Shaker audience and should be well received all round!

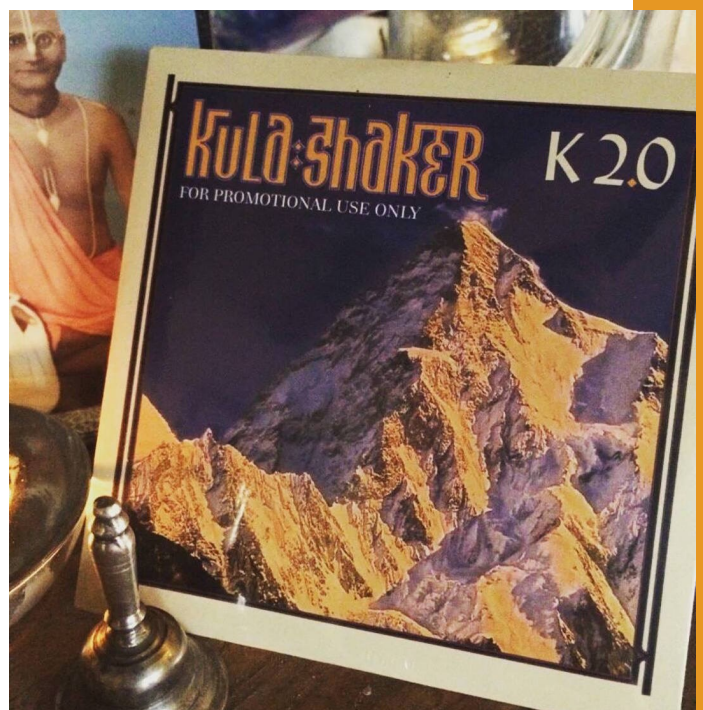
### **Mountain Lifter**

Finally, we have been waiting since the last eclipse! We were left speculating as to the name of the album, and just as we were getting to

enjoy the teaser – BLAM! It ended! But what can I say? This song will blow your minds! 'Mountain Lifter' is a bonafide epic and it is going to take its place in Kula Shaker history with songs such as 'Govinda', 'Strange Folk' & 'Great Hosannah', just simply for its epic greatness! Even the band are in love with this song, and who can blame them? Lyrics wise, we hear the story of Lord Krishna saving his people from the wrath of Lord Indra, by lifting the Govardhan Mountain, to protect them from the storm. (Please take the time to read Andrea's article on page 24, which tells the story behind this song, and trust me, the story will play out in your mind as you listen.) Music wise, the song derives various tempos, which help to musically illustrate the story that is playing out to the audience. On a personal level, there is nothing that is not to like about this song. It hits all the right buttons, shows the level of rapport between the band members and is certain to leave fans on the edge of their seats, hoping that another Hindu epic makes it onto the promised single for the 20th anniversary of 'K'!

Hopefully, this little rundown of the tracks will give the readers a bit of an idea what to expect from 'K2.0', but whatever your point of view, I am sure you will all join me in welcoming Kula Shaker back and wish them every luck with 'K2.0'!

Photos: Crispian Mills







Catching up





**with Kula Shaker**

**INTERVIEWS WITH THE BAND MEMBERS**





INTERVIEW WITH CRISPIAN MILLS

# ...And the journey continues

By Mary Nilsson &  
Andrea Zachrau

With all the hype of the new album, it wouldn't be right to have a special issue without hearing from Mr. Mills! Apart from all the recording, it sounds like he almost caught pneumonia in Belgium, whilst Sam the dog gave him the runaround... but apart from wandering in the Ardennes in his new career as a dog walker (or is that perhaps a diver), it seems Crispian has found the time to chat about the band's new album 'K2.0'. Hope ya'll enjoy reading this as much as we enjoyed preparing it!

Photo: Izham Effendi



**Crispian, first of all, I would like to start by asking, what made now the right time to decide to record the new album?**

We actually came very close to touring and recording in 2014, but things got derailed due to scheduling issues. Everybody was doing other stuff, and what had felt like the right moment was suddenly gone. Then in January 2015, Simon from 'Bucky' came to my house for a New Year family visit, with his wife Lucy and their little boy. So we were just hanging out and catching up, and then, as he was leaving, he lowered his window and yelled- "Next year then — 20 years from K!!" Until that point I had no idea it had been 20 years. It was quite a shock. I might have had air raid sirens going off in my head, but the shock soon transmuted into a stream of ideas for a new album.

**The cover design is amazing – did you want it to reflect the feel of the music within the original 'K'?**

We wanted a continuity of style, to show the relationship, between K and K2.0, and we worked with Rob O'Connor at 'Stylo Rouge', who art directed the cover for 'K'. My initial idea for 'K2.0', was a photo of the mountain in the Himalayas, which looked great (and we used this on the promo), but Rob was very keen to have an illustrated cover. Back in 1996, it had been Rob's idea to work with Dave Gibbons, and again it was Rob who found Kate Bayley to create the amazing cover art for 2.0.

**It has been 20 years since Kula Shaker released 'K'. Now you will release 'K 2.0'. What is it that makes this album similar to the original 'K'?**

It feels to me like the band has come full circle, back to its creative origins and the source of its inspiration. Reminds me of those archetypal adventures, in the old myths- where the hero always ends up back where they started. They've been on some epic and impossible journey to try and find the magical key to solving a riddle, or killing a monster, or rescuing a city, or whatever, only to find out, in the end, that they had it all along, right there in their pocket. Everybody's on that same adventure, whether we realise it or not. We're all trying to reclaim or rediscover some lost part of ourselves that makes sense of our life- and this insane universe. That's what 'K' was all about. And the journey continues.

**What was the highlight of recording 'K 2.0'?**

It was a very exciting record to put together, but I think the first time we plugged in and played 'Here come my Demons' in Lompret was

amazing. We all felt it was something really special.

**Any good stories from the studio?**

Recording in Lompret, we'd usually take the dog for a morning walk in the woods, or after lunch. One day it was just Paul and myself and we got very lost in a heavy thunder storm. There were just miles and miles of dark forest- and we had no clue in the hell where we were. We got so disorientated we even thought we'd crossed a river by accident, so we stripped off and swam it. This proved to be a waste of time as we were soon even more lost, and wet and freezing to boot. Total nightmare. In the end, I think Alonza's dog got bored of following us and found the trail back.

**What are your plans for 2016?**

No more walks in the wood with Paul. We're going to be playing live a lot. There's also going to be an exclusive new single soon, and plans for something special in the Autumn for the 'K' anniversary.

**After viewing the 'Infinite Sun' video, it looked like fabulous family day together.**

**How are the Boys enjoying having their dad in the studio?**

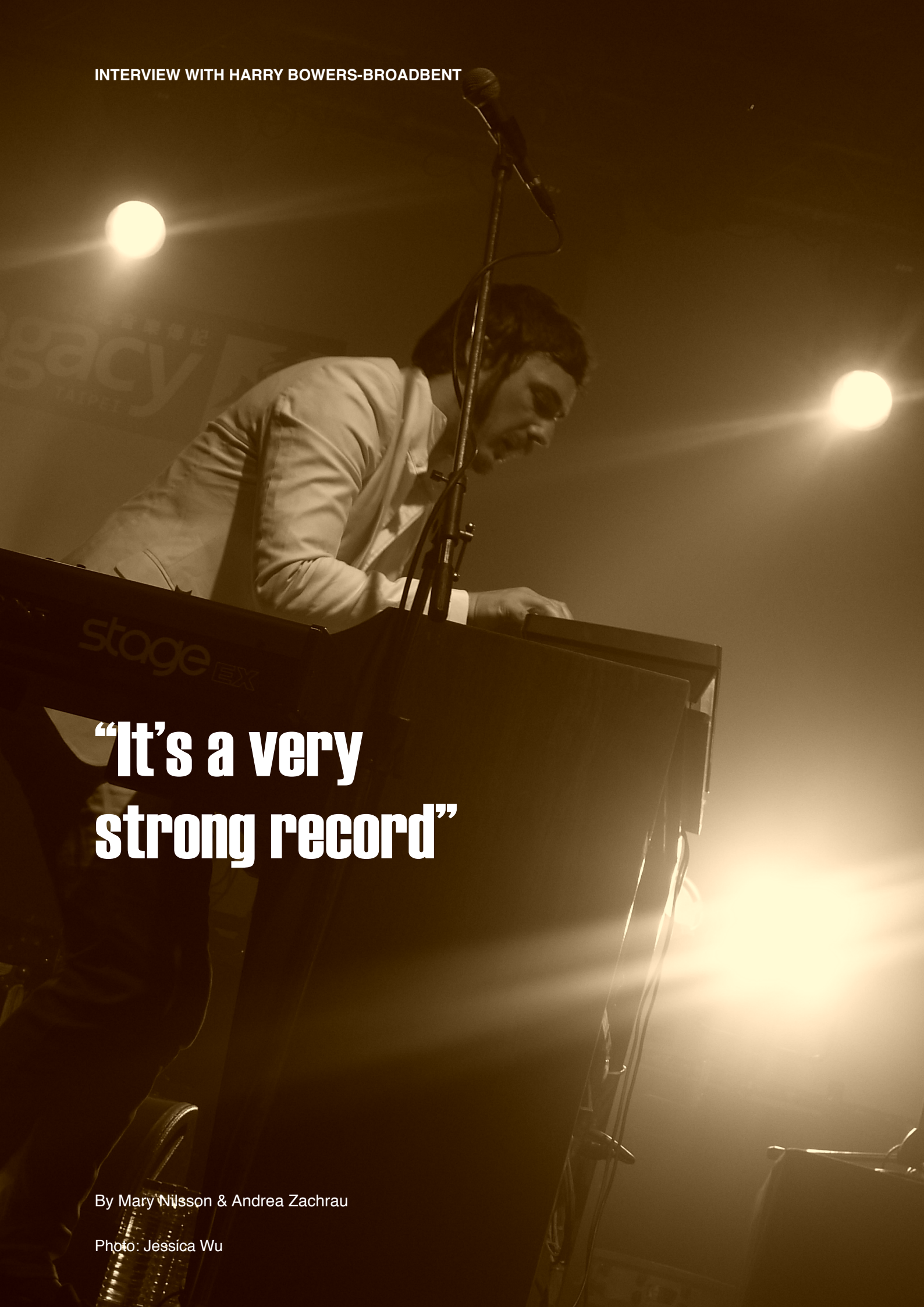
I think the kids really liked the whole creative environment. There were some tense moments though, as both my boys love drumming and wanted to bash the crap out the kit at the same time. Two drummers- but only one drum kit- is not a good scenario.

**Finally, what song on 'K2.0' stands out to you the most and why?**

'Here come my Demons' means a lot to me, partly because of the way it was written, but also because my oldest boy came up with the title. '33 Crows' also has a history. I was always a fan of Simon's writing but he was very cool about letting me work on the song and personalise it for Kula Shaker. The track was sounding very lovely from the get go, but when we put Olivier's sitar on, it became a whole new creation.

After reading this interview, we are sure that the readers are as excited about what 2016 holds for Kula Shaker as the band are themselves! Good luck to Crispian – hope all goes well with the album release and forthcoming tour!



A man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a light-colored shirt, is leaning over a dark podium. A microphone is positioned in front of him. The scene is dimly lit, with two bright stage lights visible in the background, creating a warm, golden glow. The podium has the word "stage" and "EX" on it. In the background, a banner with the word "Legacy" and "TAIPEI" is partially visible.

INTERVIEW WITH HARRY BOWERS-BROADBENT

**“It’s a very  
strong record”**

By Mary Nilsson & Andrea Zachrau

Photo: Jessica Wu



**Without a doubt: 2015 was an exciting year for Harry.** He was working with and playing for different artists and when it came to recording 'K 2.0', his daughter Anita was born. We took our chance and spoke with him about fatherhood, exhausting recording sessions and a fun video shoot.

**Welcome back Harry! This time around sees you welcoming a new addition to your family! What is it like to be a dad now?**

Life changing! But it kind of feels like she's always been there too. Too wonderful for words.

**How difficult has it been to balance recording commitments with a new-born?**

It was quite difficult actually - we went into the studio around the time Anita was born so I had to rush back and forth to Belgium. I did get some uninterrupted sleep though!

**Now that the King has reawakened, will you be full-time with Kula Shaker, or will you be likely to continue working freelance with other bands too?**

Kula Shaker is always full time – even when it's not. I'm sure I'll work with all sorts of people in the future, but right now it's nice to concentrate on KS.

**Last time you were in the 'Tea Rooms', it was to record your own solo album. Was it good to be back in there with the whole band?**

Of course. It's an indulgence to make a record completely alone - no interferences or conflicting opinions. But it can be a double edged sword too of course, and you can find

yourself craving some help. KS have a special sound together, not to mention simply getting back together with the boys.

**Any stories from the recordings?**

It really is all a bit of a blur I'm afraid – I remember getting some AMAZING sleep in the control room at the tea rooms – there's no windows – and some fine cooking from Crispian and Audrey. I think the wildest day was filming the vid for 'Infinite Sun' in London with kids everywhere.

**Did you get to use any 'unusual' instruments this time around as well?**

It was nice to use my vibraphone on a couple of tunes. The motor has been broken since the 90s though so to get the vibe effect Crispian had to manually turn the rotors while I played. No difference!

**Do you have any favourite track on 'K2.0'?**

Not really. It's a very strong record – I couldn't pick a particular favourite. 'Oh Mary' and 'Holy Flame' are lovely concise, classy pieces of pop, Crispian wrote some great lyrics for 'Death of Democracy', and I love the prog-ness of 'Demons'.

Many thanks to Harry for sharing some of his extremely precious time with us! But I am sure the readers will join the Zine in saying congratulations on the birth of Baby Anita, and of course, keep our fingers crossed that he gets a couple of full night's sleep on tour!



Photo: Izham Effendi



INTERVIEW WITH ALONZA BEVAN

**“Time is moving too fast”**

Photo: Simon Bruce



By Mary Nilsson

**So, the King has again awakened. Kula Shaker fans the world over have a new album, and with a tour fast approaching, it has been an exciting, but very busy time for the band in general.** However, even with so much going on, Alonza has taken time out of a rather busy schedule to have a bit of a chat with us here at Strange Folk. Here's what Mr Bevan has to say about 'K2.0'...

**'K2.0' is in the bag, it's nearly ready to be released and you're all ready to tour. Does it feel good to be back into the swing of things?**

**Alonza:** At the moment I'm terrified, trying to re-learn a bunch of old parts, nothing like some nerves and a deadline to get you prepared.

**This time around, seen you co-producing with Mark Duck-Blackwell. How do you feel that differed from taking the production helm by yourself?**

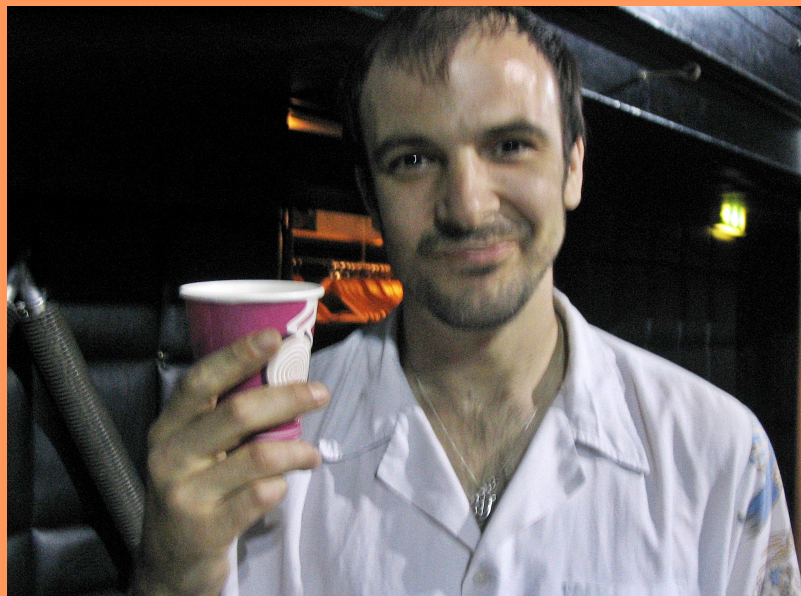
Duck has a no fuss, can do attitude to recording and is very easy to work with. He also mixed 'Pilgrims Progress'.

**Having already asked Crispian a similar question, it seemed prudent to also ask you if you feel that 'K2.0' has taken Kula Shaker back to its Indian-influenced roots?**

I've been working with sitar player Olivier Leclercq on many projects including Tumblewild. He's a good friend of mine and when the idea of a new Kula Shaker album came along it seemed obvious to get him involved.

**How does it feel to be waking the King 20 years on?**

It feels like time is moving too fast.



**Will you and Audrey still be happy to be working on Tumblewild projects – seeing as you have a recording studio at your disposal?**

I'd really love to make another Tumblewild album. It feels like we've just started to explore that world. The issue is time – which we'll have to find.

**Has there been any musical input from your wife Audrey and son Lewis this time around?**

Audrey was less involved in this record, but we still managed to get a few 'la la las' on a couple of tunes.

**Finally, the question being asked to everyone this time around – what song on 'K2.0' stands out for you the most?**

I was asked this before, and I said 'Mountain Lifter' because of a new structural device it uses called the mountain lift. I really like 'Infinite Sun', because it's a song that's been with us since before 'K'.

So there we have it... A return to Indian roots, some very original tracks and the hopes of some new Tumblewild projects for the future. And don't forget to check out our interview with Olivier, also in this issue and read what our Sitar Man has to say about his time with Kula Shaker!



**Well folks, it's that time again.** One more album in the bag and as we have tried to catch up with everyone, Pauli kindly gave up some of his precious time to have a little chat with us. So time to sit back and see what our drummer extraordinaire has to say about his time making 'K2.0'...

**Pauli, good to have you back (and even better to know we will all see you soon on tour). How did it feel to get back to playing with Kula Shaker? Have you missed it?** It felt good to be playing together again, although circumstances are different logistically, life & stage wise. And confidence-wise I'm in a much better place than when we recorded 'K'.

**Have you had to balance your time between Kula Shaker and Black Casino & the Ghost? Or did things just manage to work themselves out?**

No I didn't have any juggling to do. I am blessed to play in 2 great bands, but at times it seems like neither is working. Hopefully that is changing now!

**How did the recordings go, do you have any anecdotes from the studio that you would share with us?**

I'm really sorry but I can't think of any recording anecdotes. It's like any workplace I guess, you try to be prepared, get along and work to the best of your abilities.

**With the release of 'K2.0', do you hope to be doing any festivals this summer?**  
Yes!

**Are there any drum solos for us to be aware of this time around? Anything epic?**  
Drum solos? I'm not really into them unless it's someone like Philly Jo Jones...

**After viewing the 'Infinite Sun' video, it looked like fabulous family day together. How did your girls enjoy being in the video?**  
Well yes it seems to work better on many levels with Crispian directing the videos (this is the 3rd now). This is mainly that they represent the band and the song, rather than the idea of an outside director. Re kids enjoying it, my eldest was grumpy - she was asked to get herself across London and my youngest had fun playing with the director's sons.

**Are there any personal favourite tracks on 'K2.0'?**

My favourites are the 2 epics 'Mountain Lifter' & 'Here Come My Demons'.

Since chatting with Pauli, it has come to light that his band **'Black Casino & the Ghost' will be supporting Kula Shaker in their upcoming tour.** Good news for us – although I am sure Pauli will be happy to hear that they will be bringing drumming respite in the shape of Phil Martini and Giuliano Ferrari! Just a little more for us to look forward to this month!



**“It felt good  
to play together”**

By Mary Nilsson & Andrea Zachrau

Photo: Izham Effendi



# A Sit-Down with the Sitar Man!

By Mary Nilsson

In a Strange Folk exclusive, we had an opportunity to interview **Olivier Leclerqz**. Olivier has worked his magic on 'K2.0' with the fabulous sound of his sitar, helping Kula Shaker back to that amazing Indian-influenced sound that made us all fall in love with their music in the first place!

**Strange Folk: Olivier, let me begin by thanking you very much to agreeing to chat with us at 'Strange Folk'. How did you enjoy the holiday season?**

**Olivier Leclerqz:** First of all, thank you for asking these questions. It's a first for me on this side of the music. Christmas is over and we are into 2016. We all hope, I think, that this year will not see the atrocities of 2015. As for me, my family, my life in the country & my music has brought me well-being and I wish you and your readers well!

**When I first heard the Tumblewild album, and heard the Sitar solo on 'Sweet Bones', I thought it was fabulous. How did you meet Audrey and Alonza, and how did you come to work with them on the Tumblewild project?**

I met Audrey and Alonza 4-5 years ago at a party with friends. I think there is no coincidence in life, and when I said I could play the Indian sitar, Alonza invited me to his home. We played together for pleasure before thinking about putting the sitar into any musical environment. It was the first step in our collaboration.

**Obviously, Sitar is a very delicate instrument, and from what I hear, extremely difficult to master. What made you want to learn to play Sitar? How long before you mastered it?**

It takes time and discipline to master such an instrument. As with everything, this is the magic formula to get to where you want to be. I've played the sitar for 15 years, and I'm always



learning, but after about 10 years I acquired the skill and technique to begin to touch the magic of Indian music and to finally know why we were drawn to it. It's love.

**Did you enjoy working with Kula Shaker on the 'K2.0' project? Was there any song in particular that you enjoyed being a part of?** I spent two days recording with Alonza and Crispian for 'K2.0'. It was a very good experience, rather short, too short for my taste, but very constructive. I enjoyed that time. I met Crispian for the first time, we talked about India of course! We worked on 4 or 5 pieces and it felt comfortable and we had a few moments of musical magic! As for a favourite, with 'Hari Aum', we were in our element, I can't comment on the whole album as I didn't hear everything yet, but I'm curious and impatient!

**Will you be likely to play live with the band at any of the upcoming Kula Shaker gigs?**

I don't know right now, but it would be pretty amazing...

**And one final question...rumour has it that you also drive the school bus? That is a very different career path from being a musician. How did you come to drive the school bus? (Which incidentally sounds like a hell of a lot of fun)....**

Yes I'm the school bus driver. I don't make my living through music. My job allows me to live, music allows me to dream. I am lucky to love my work, I have good fortune but I live as simply as possible, I have time to take care of my family, my home, and other activities such as music, making cheese and weaving baskets. But if one day I could live off my music...?



BEHIND THE SCENES



## Video shoot for “Infinite Sun”





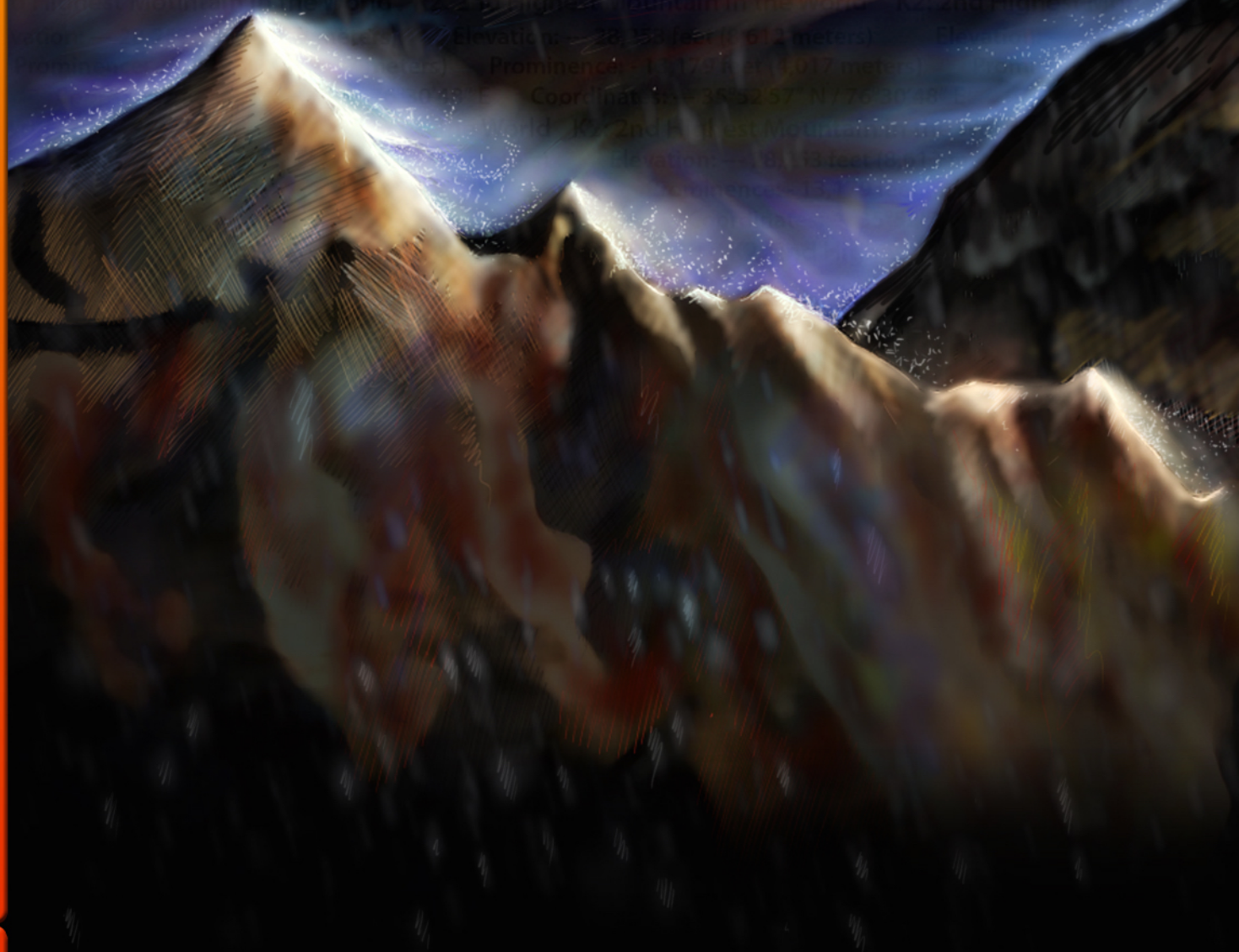
BEHIND THE SCENES



Photos: Nicole Frobusch



# K20







artwork by [peterbruce.co.uk](http://peterbruce.co.uk)



# K Retrospective - a fan's perspective

By Mike Bray

**When I was asked to write a piece on 'what K meant to me', I honestly didn't know where to start, so I thought back to 1996, where I was and what I was doing.** In the summer of '96 I was 15, at school, and to be honest, not enjoying it. I had been having guitar lessons but again, not really enjoying it as much as I hoped I would. But the times were changing, Britpop was fully established now, guitar music was very much on the scene. I would get home from school and put the radio on straight away.

I had heard 'Tattva' on the radio, and had never heard anything like it. The riff, the slide guitar on the solo, the Indian sound, but mostly it was the lyrics, but I don't mean the Sanskrit. Unlike most music I had heard, the lyrics were not about love and relationships, but about something totally different. To a 15 year old with no girlfriend, this was very refreshing! The same can be said of most of 'K', although their true meaning probably past me by. Unfortunately I never found out who this band was, I always seemed to miss the DJ saying the band name, and of course, this was before

Shazam.  
But when 'Hey Dude' came out, I loved it, bought it, and was delighted to find a version of 'Tattva' as a B-Side, my two favourite songs of the time were the same band! I had to get the album.

I'm ashamed to say I bought 'K' second hand from my best mate for a mere £7. He wasn't that fussed by it; and I found it a bit hit and miss. I liked the guitar based tracks, but wasn't so bothered with 'Temple of Everlasting Light', 'Magic Theatre', 'Sleeping Jiva' or even 'Hollow Man', but hey, like I said, I was only 15. But it encouraged my guitar playing, my teacher had said if there was anything I wanted to learn, to let him know, but I honestly didn't care before. Now, I had something I really wanted to play – 'Tattva'. I played it over and over until I had the whole song engrained in my head. Next was 'Grateful When You're Dead' (but I was still skipping 'Jerry Was There', which ironically I prefer now!)







But when 'K' really opened up to me was after listening to a live gig that was on the radio (the famous Aston Villa Leisure Centre gig). Suddenly the 'other' tracks, especially 'Hollow Man', sounded totally different, more alive and attuned to my ear. As Crispian says - Kula Shaker have always been a live band, and now, I was hooked. Every song suddenly seemed magical, the album was perfect, it had a track for every mood, and playing the guitar was exciting again. I will admit, I probably took it to excess. In 1997 my family life changed, my parents divorced and it felt like Kula Shaker and 'K' was a constant. It was always there for me, when I needed it. Looking back to it now, it does remind me of some more difficult times in my life, but mostly it reminds me of listening to it on my Discman (1996 remember!) and let it take me away – in a good way of course. Those

songs are so engrained in me now, it's hard to imagine my life without it. It seemed to be everywhere I looked, even my Dad's car had '303' in the number plate!

So what does 'K' mean to me? The start of my real interest in music, both listening and playing. From there I started to listen to music more and more. 1996 was such a great era for music, and in a way, 2016 is as well, as it marks the return of so many great bands. I have recently been listening to 'Expecting to Fly' by the Bluetones a lot, and I'm sure I appreciate it more now than I ever did then, especially Adam Devlin's guitar playing, and the same can be said of 'Mosely Shoals'.

But would I have listened to them if I hadn't got into guitar music first? And would I have got into guitar music without 'K'? I'll never know.

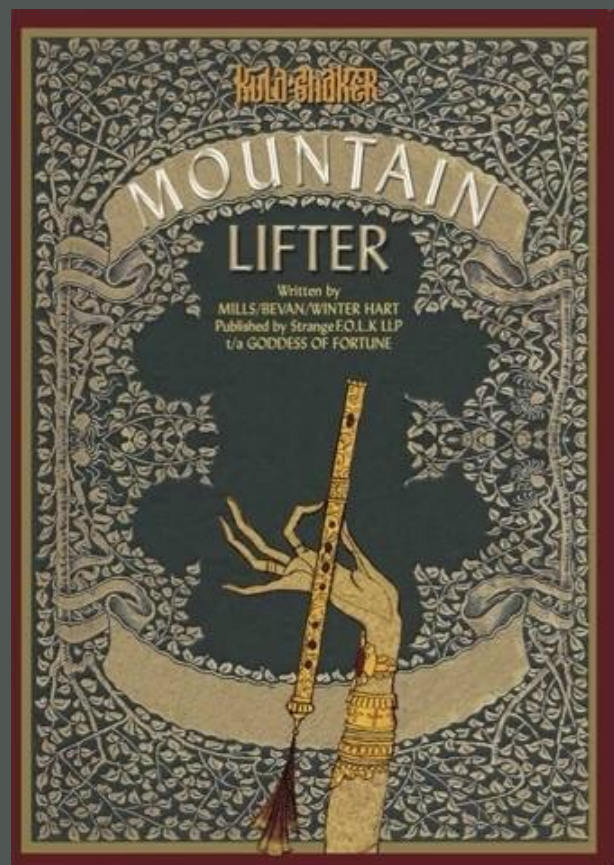




# The story behind Mountain Lifter

by Andrea Zachrau

**We finally got it!** The long-awaited psychedelic spaceship we'd been waiting for - "Mountain Lifter" is surely one of the most stunning songs on the new album. But what does "Mountain Lifter" mean, you ask? Is there a story behind the song? Yes, there is, and it is a very fascinating one as well. Enjoy Lord Krishna's Miracle!





## Krishna Lifting the 'Govardhana Giri'

As we all know Lord Krishna was lived in a little town called Vrindavan 5000 years ago. He was born on the earth to make people realise their sin, to understand their moral principles of life and protect the good in this world. The Vrindavan was a place of greenery and the people lived there happily and prosperously. They had to thank the God Indra every year for the rain and the greenery in their village.

It was a rainy season, and Vrindavan had had good rain, and the village was full of greenery and with healthy vegetation. The people in the village planned to celebrate it and thank the God Indra. So the people cleaned and decorated the whole village with lights and flowers. Lord Krishna was unaware of it, and as he heard the noise, he peeped outside of his window and saw the decorations. He enquired the reason for the celebration from his father. As he came to know, he was shocked and denied that the reason behind the rain was Lord Indra. The people in the village were astonished to hear it, and, the noise stopped as everyone was keen to listen to Lord Krishna.

Nanda (Lord Krishna's father), started to convince him that Lord Indra is the one who takes care of the rain and he helps us in providing sufficient rain for our vegetation and others. But Lord Krishna refused to listen and said 'it's not Lord Indra but Govardhan Mountain, that is our real friend and we should thank him'. All the people listening to him were shocked and someone from the crowd raised the question 'how can you say that the mountain is the reason for the fertility of our lands and not Lord Indra whereas the mountain is a nonliving thing'?

Lord Krishna replied to it saying "yes uncle, the mountain sends the signals to the air and indirectly interacts with the clouds to pour the rain in Vrindavan. It is the one who gives us the medicines and cures us from

harmful diseases by giving us the magical herbs. It purifies the water when it reaches the ground and it even adds minerals to the water and purifies the air from the top of the peak. It gives good healthy grass to the cattle by which we get the nutritious milk." The answer given by Lord Krishna satisfied the people, so they returned home. But Nanda was worried that this might impact the village if Lord Indra came to know about this. He might get angry and cause some natural calamities.

This became true as Lord Indra was indeed listening to this conversation, and ordered clouds to get together in Vrindavan and pour rain continuously and heavily. The clouds accumulated over Vrindavan, and they were dark and looked like it was midnight.

The clouds roared and started raining heavily continuously for 2 days. The people and cattle started panicking as the whole village was covered by water they didn't have shelter. But Lord Krishna asked the people not to panic and took them to Govardhan Mountain and lifted the mountain with his little finger and the whole village along with cattle took shelter under it.

Seeing this, the Lord Indra was shocked how a young boy could lift a mountain. Then Brahma came and made him realise that he is not just a boy, but Lord Vishnu who was born in India. Then Lord Indra went to meet Lord Krishna and asked for his forgiveness for his mistake. The people in the village came to know that he was God's child and started thanking and praising him.

Source: [www.aumamen.com](http://www.aumamen.com)

For those of you with kids (and even if you don't have any yet!) we can recommend a very cute video that explains the whole story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DDeBwLPntgA>



INTERVIEW WITH BLACK CASINO AND THE GHOST

# “I was mesmerized when I heard K”

By Andrea Zachrau



**Please welcome the new addition to the Kula Shaker family!** A very familiar band will join the King during the forthcoming tour through Europe. It's 'Black Casino and the Ghost' – you might have heard of them already. Not only because their 2<sup>nd</sup> album “Until the water runs clear” had some very good reviews, but also because Paul Winter-Hart happens to be their drummer, too!

Even if he won't join them on the support slot this time, you can look forward to a worthy opening act! Before singer Elisa Zoot and guitarist Ariel Lerner packed their bags to get on that crazy trip to Europe they took their time and talked to us about their love for Kula Shaker, which cities they are looking forward to most and what the fans can expect from their performances!

Photo: Nicole Frobusch



**First of all: Congratulations guys! So happy to see you on tour with Kula. What did it feel like when you found out that you will be the support act?**

Elisa: Thank you very much, we are really happy too! It felt wonderful, at first a little hard to believe... then just really, really exciting!

Ariel: We feel it's the best thing that could happen to us as musicians at the moment, going on tour supporting one of our favourite bands ever.

**You've been Kula fans for quite some time now. When did you get into them and did you ever get to see them live?**

Elisa: I got into them as a kid when 'K' came out. I was on holiday in Hampshire and suddenly "Tattva" started playing on Top of the Pops. I remember running around the room looking for a piece of paper to write the name "Kula Shaker" down. The following day I bought the album, it was everything I needed from music in that exact moment. It stayed with me ever since.

Ariel: I first heard 'K' in my late teens and I was mesmerized. It was one of those albums I would have playing constantly and I think the original CD I have is totally busted and scratched to the bone. They were a big inspiration to me in many ways. Actually the first track me and Zoot ever wrote together featured a Sitar player (smiles). The first gig of the tour in Worthing, will be our first Kula Shaker live show!

**What is your favourite Kula track?**

Elisa: Way too many great tracks to just pick one! "Tattva", "303" and "Govinda" were my first crushes, then came the big powerful tracks featured on "Peasants, Pigs & Astronauts", like "Mystical Machine Gun" and "Sound of Drums"... and then the melodies of "Pilgrim's Progress" like "Cavalry", "Ophelia"...and aaaahhhh that "Ruby" middle 8!! My current favourite though has to be "Here Come My Demons", from the new album.

Ariel: It is too difficult to choose just one, too many memorable songs. Off the top of my head I would say "Govinda", "Ophelia", "Winter's Call", "Infinite sun"...

**Which venue/city are you looking forward to the most?**

Ariel: I guess London and Rome are our two places that are particularly close to our hearts, so it's going to be more emotional in a way, but we can't wait to play all of the tour's great cities.

**What can the fans expect from Black Casino and the Ghost as support act?**

Elisa: We will be rocking and rolling as hard as we can...

**For those who didn't hear any of your songs yet – how would you describe your music?**

Elisa: We are a four piece band and we play a mix of alternative rock, some delta blues-y elements, some psychedelia, some sort of cinematic elements...

**And, last question – which Kula song would you like to hear live and why?**

Ariel: All of them but probably "Hey Dude" will make me go in happy-jumpy-huggy-pogo mode. I hope not to break anything.

Elisa: "Here Come My Demons", 'cause I want to cry like a baby ☺! It's going to be amazing seeing everything they play, and we REALLY can't wait to see Paul rock the house!!



**Black Casino and the Ghost...**

...are an alternative rock band consisting of Elisa Zoot (vocals, piano) Ariel Lerner (guitar) Gary Kilminster (bass) and Paul Winter-Hart (drums, also member of British band Kula Shaker). The band was formed in London, England. They released an EP called "Falling into Pieces" in 2011 and an album, "Some Dogs Think Their Name is No", in 2013. Their second album "Until the Water Runs Clear" came out on the 16th of November 2015. An eclectic mix of delta blues, piano-led ballads, alternative rock and cinematic orchestral arrangements, Black Casino and the Ghost's music is about isolation, disorientation, lust, and how to fly a plane through turbulence without spilling your coffee.



## TOUR DATES

*See you on tour!*

### DATE

### CITY & VENUE

13TH FEBRUARY

WORTHING, PAVILION THEATRE

15TH FEBRUARY

GLASGOW, 02 ABC

16TH FEBRUARY

MANCHESTER, RITZ

17TH FEBRUARY

LONDON, ROUNDHOUSE

18TH FEBRUARY

BRUSSELS, AB CLUB

20TH FEBRUARY

PARIS, GONZAI@MAROQUINERIE

21ST FEBRUARY

AMSTERDAM, PARADISO

22ND FEBRUARY

BERLIN, HEIMATHAFEN

23RD FEBRUARY

MUNICH, FREIHEIZ

25TH FEBRUARY

MILAN, ALCATRAZ

26TH FEBRUARY

ROME, ORION CLUB

3RD MARCH

MOSCOW, YOTASPACE

4TH MARCH

ST PETERSBURG, GLAVCLUB

Photo: Jessica Wu