

Music

Ozzy to 'bark at moon'

Rogue + Jaye debut 'Pent Up' expressive

By Pablo Gorondi

Rogue + Jaye, "Pent Up" (Tropical Records)
Zach Rogue and Courtney Jaye express themselves just fine on their debut, sprinkling "Pent Up" with a little indie dust over a graceful mix of pop, country and folk.

Rogue has released a handful of albums with San Francisco band Rogue Wave since 2003, from near-solo lo-fi to more polished efforts. Jaye has also recorded a few albums while making stops everywhere from Georgia and Hawaii to Tennessee and southern California.

Their songwriting partnership began in Los Angeles in 2013, though "Pent Up" was made at Nashville's Fleetwood Shack studios.

Jaye's voice combines shades of Stevie Nicks' earthy tones with the piercing velvetiness of Natalie Maines and it's skillfully complemented by Rogue's own expressive yet economical vocals and layers of guitars.

"Golden Lady," a possible Nicks tribute, has a riff and beat echoing Bob Seger's "Night Moves" and features Jaye's voice at its most soaring. On the gentle "Forces of Decay," one of the best songs here, the pair's harmonies slide gently over fingerpicked guitars and dry percussion.

Rogue's singing comes to the fore on "Little Relief," while "Til It Fades," the first tune they wrote together, also finds them harmonizing and makes it easy to understand why they decided to continue the partnership.

"Spider and Fly" returns to folkier territory and "Claws" closes the record with Jaye's voice sounding as if through a filter of crystals and underpinned by Rogue's ghostly backing.

Confined

Rogue + Jaye don't sound repressed, inhibited or confined on "Pent Up," a winning release inhabited by confident songwriting.

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With North America readying for a major solar eclipse, **Ozzy Osbourne** will celebrate the exact moment by singing "Bark at the Moon" as the sun disappears.

Moonsrock, a new metal festival in Illinois, will take place over four days culminating on Aug 21 with the US-wide eclipse.

Osbourne will take the stage at 1:20 (1820 GMT) and start his set with "Bark at the Moon," his 1983 song about the wrath of a werewolf-like monster.

The 68-year-old metal legend will need to be punctual as the total eclipse will last two minutes and 29 seconds. The song runs four minutes and 16 seconds on his album by the same name.

The festival, which recommends that fans wear protective eyewear, will take place at a vineyard near De Soto, Illinois, about 140 kilometers (85 miles) south-east of St Louis — within the region that will have the best visibility of the eclipse if the weather permits.

The solar eclipse — when the Moon blocks the Sun as it passes between the vital star and Earth — will be the first to be visible across the entire United States since 1918, according to NASA.

The eclipse will be at least partially visible in all 50 states including Hawaii as well as in Canada.

Osbourne, with lyricism that dabbles in the occult and infamous on-stage gestures such as biting the head off a bat, is one of the pioneers of heavy metal.

His band Black Sabbath in February played what it said would be its last-ever concert in its native Birmingham, England, but Osbourne has several solo shows ahead.

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Early on in their career, the country group **Rascal Flatts** often dealt with critics of their pop-country sound and being labeled a country music boy band. Bassist and producer **Jay DeMarcus** noted that one early review referred to their music as "bouncy, bouncy, flop."

Seventeen years later with the release of their 10th studio album, "Back to Us," the trio of DeMarcus, **Gary LeVox** and **Joe Don Rooney** say they've adapted their material to fit their lives.

"As husbands and fathers and everything, you have to write appropriate material and find appropriate material for where you are," said DeMarcus.

"And not cutting as many songs about kicking at the club with the fellas," LeVox joked. "One song is called 'In Bed By 7.'"

Still the group that has had several platinum records and No. 1 hits relies on young songwriters and artists to keep their music sounding fresh. Grammy-winning pop singer **Meghan Trainor**'s earliest success as a songwriter came when she contributed to two songs on Rascal Flatts' 2014 album, including the single "I Like the Sound of That."

"Back to Us," out May 19, has songs co-written by Shay Mooney of the rising duo Dan + Shay, a duet with 22-year-old "American Idol" alum Lauren Alaina and a song written by powerhouse performer Chris Stapleton.

"I think it's important for all of us to help a younger generation of country music artists come along," said DeMarcus. "And I think the more they have success, the more success there is for all of us. It's really synergistic from that standpoint."

But he joked that the band's relationship with Dan + Shay was more like an internship than a mentorship.

"We made an agreement with Shay early on right when they got signed, if they were going to steal our sound, we had to get first pick of the songs he was writing," DeMarcus said.

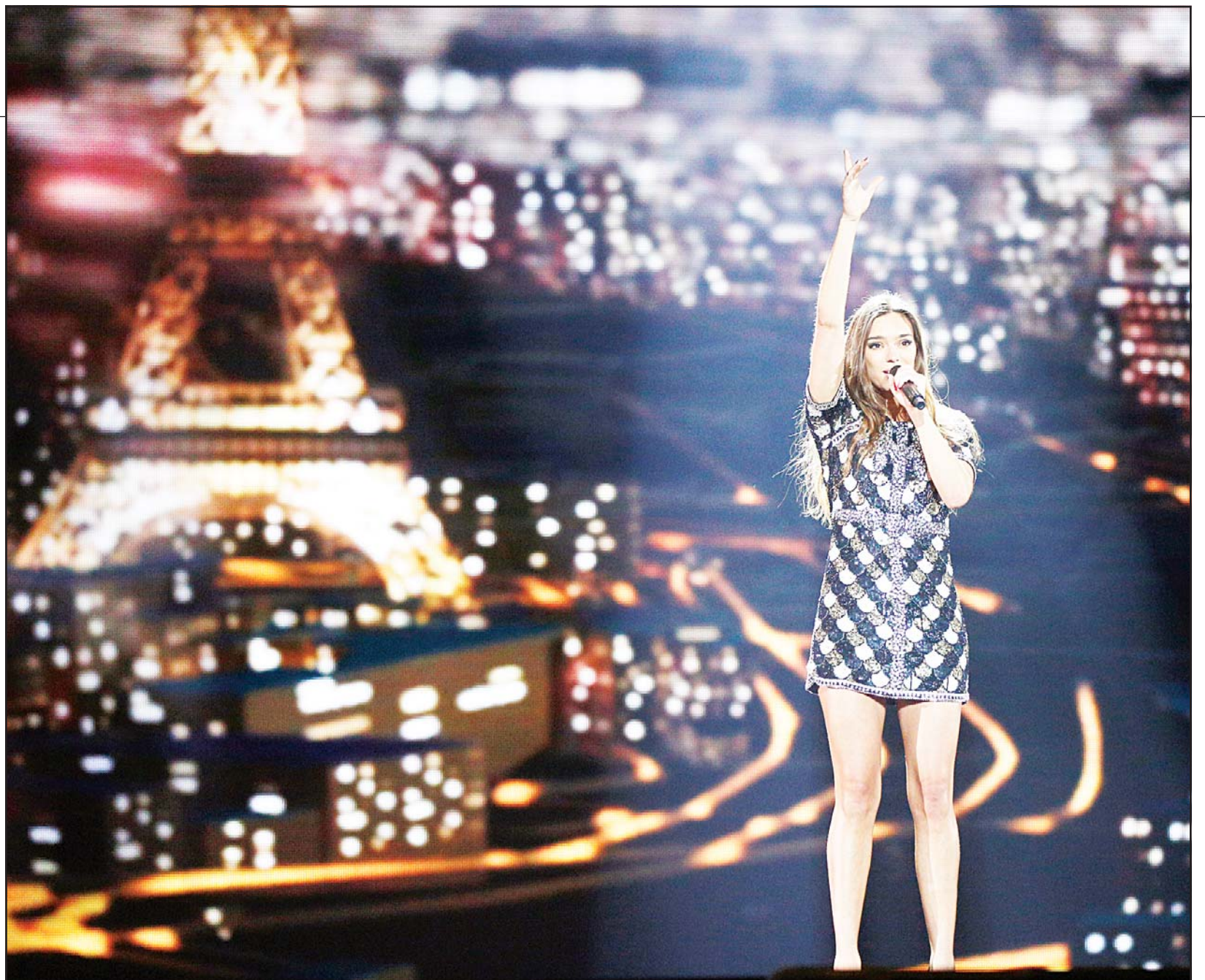
Also:

NEW YORK: Jay Z's fortunes jumped 30 percent last year to give him an estimated net worth of \$810 million, but it was not enough to dethrone **Sean "Diddy" Combs** from the top of Forbes annual list on Wednesday of the world's wealthiest hip hop artists.

Combs retained his No. 1 spot with an estimated net worth of \$820 million, helped by his lucrative deals and his Sean John clothing line, Forbes said.

But rapper and producer Jay Z moved into second place with \$810 million thanks largely to a \$200 million investment in his Tidal music streaming service from wireless carrier Sprint in January.

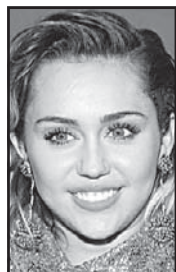
Forbes produced the list by looking at past earnings and financial documents, valuing current holdings, and talking to analysts, attorneys, managers, and other industry players. (Agencies)



Alma from France performs the song 'Requiem' during rehearsals for the Eurovision Song Contest in Kiev, Ukraine on May 10. (AP)



Belarus' Naviband performs the song 'Story of My Life' during the second semifinal dress rehearsal of the Eurovision Song Contest 2017 on May 10, at the International Exhibition Centre in Kiev. (AFP)



Cyrus



Miguel

Variety

LOS ANGELES: Some people opt for an intimate dinner with friends to celebrate a milestone birthday, but manager **Adam Leber**, whose clients (with partner **Larry Rudolph**) include **Miley** and **Noah Cyrus**, **Britney Spears** and **Fifth Harmony**, ushered in his 40th with a party worthy of any rock star and complete with some top-notch shredding courtesy of Miley Cyrus and music executive **Ron Perry**, the president of SONGS Music Publishing who signed **Lorde** and **The Weeknd** to lucrative publishing deals.

Other artists to take the microphone at the Saturday night bash in the Hollywood Hills included **Sia**, **Labrinth**, **Noah Cyrus** and **Phantogram**'s **Sarah Barthel**, but judging by social media, the highlight for the 200 friends and colleagues was Cyrus and Perry's take on Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit." (RTRS)

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LOS ANGELES: **Luis Miguel**, the balladeer known as "El Sol de Mexico," has settled a court battle over a \$1 million debt he was ordered to pay his former manager and attorneys, according to legal papers filed in Los Angeles on Wednesday.

The Grammy Award winner had spent a brief time behind bars on May 2 when he was arrested for failure to appear at court hearings and then released on bond.

A federal judge in Los Angeles earlier this year ruled that Miguel's 2013 Rolls-Royce could be seized to help satisfy the \$1 million judgment handed down against Miguel by a US judge in New York, according to court papers.

The judgment stemmed from a breach-of-contract lawsuit filed against Miguel by his former manager, **William Brockhaus**, and included money he owed Brockhaus and for legal fees. The case was later transferred to federal court in California. (RTRS)

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MADRID: DJ **Robert Miles**, known worldwide for his million-selling dream-house track "Children", has died aged just 47 after a months-long battle with cancer, the online radio he founded said Wednesday.

"Robert passed away peacefully last night after a courageous battle with stage 4 metastatic cancer over the last 9 months," OpenLab, which also broadcasts on traditional airwaves in the Balearic islands of **Ibiza** and **Formentera**, said on its Facebook page.

"Throughout it he was strong, deter-

Music

Kiev goes ape for Eurovision

Italy's karma chameleon hot tip

ROME, May 11, (AFP): With his gravelly voice, catchy choruses and chatty good nature Francesco Gabbani has already conquered Italian fans and is now chasing full-throated glory at Saturday's Eurovision Song Contest.

The slicked back hair, snazzy snug outfits and a slightly Freddie Mercury-esque moustache certainly help to explain his visual appeal.

But singer-songwriter Gabbani, 34, also hopes that including someone dancing next to him in an ape costume will help justify his current status as bookies' favourite to land a third title for Italy, after their 1964 and 1990 Eurovision successes.

Gabbani's slick video of his grooving "Occidental's karma" (westerners' karma) song has already soared up the continental charts and he hopes his performance in Kiev on Saturday will garner those all-important votes from the national juries and TV audiences.

This year's highly original entry looks set to change the Eurovision fortunes of Italy which has skipped more than half of the previous 35 editions.

But for Italians, he has already landed the top prize.

Gabbani, whose steady girlfriend of five years is a tattoo artist, landed the Italian nomination by winning the Sanremo music festival, a five-night affair which keeps Italians glued to their television screens every February.

This year's Sanremo drew an average nightly audience of 10.8 million for a 50 percent national TV share — giving Gabbani, as the winner, legions of fans and plenty of popular momentum for his Eurovision assault.

Created back in 1951 in the tourist resort of San Remo, a short hop from the French Riviera, the festival has helped launch several top Italian names from Eros Ramazzotti to Andrea Bocelli.

Traditionally, the festival winner earns a slot at Eurovision.

Gabbani, born further along the Mediterranean coast at Carrara, famed for its marble, grew up in a musical environment — his parents running a shop selling instruments.

After releasing several low key albums he burst onto the scene at the

2016 edition of San Remo, winning the accolade of best newcomer with his feel-good dance entry "Amen".

That success vaulted him into the senior competition and he promptly entered "Occidental's karma", co-written with, among others, younger brother Filippo.

The sheer energy the song exudes with its Gangnam-style choreography has seduced fans across Europe, despite some rather perplexing lyrical references of an oriental, but also scientific, political and philosophical nature.

Lessons

"Lessons of Nirvana, there's Buddha in single line, break time for everyone, a moment of glory. The crowd shouts a mantra. Evolution stumbles. The naked ape is dancing".

So goes the refrain with offers a clear nod to British zoologist and ethologist Desmond Morris, author of "The Naked Ape: A Zoologist's Study of the Human Animal".

The song also slyly references Shakespeare, Karl Marx, Neolithic Man, as well as "intellectuals in cafes" while deriding "honorary members of the selfie-addicted anonymous".

Fans keen to show their support can get the T-shirt bearing the legend "la scimmia nuda balla".

The song itself has already earned triple platinum status.

San Remo had been expected to crown veteran song queen Fiorella Mannoia, who had been the big favourite until a TV vote saw Gabbani just edge her out to become the first entrant to win both the junior and senior categories back to back.

Within 24 hours of his San Remo victory, Gabbani's performance had attracted 4.3 million YouTube hits in Italy alone, a record. Total views have since mushroomed to 110 million — unheard of exposure for a Eurovision entry.

"The magic formula is not just in the song but what the song transmits. That it is being viewed abroad is proof of that. They don't understand the words — and yet you feel the vibe", says Gabbani.

After Eurovision, Gabbani will go on tour across Italy — without his simian sidekick.

"He's done his time. His role was to explain in as amusing a fashion as possible the point of the song. With all his fur he'll be fine in Ukraine", the singer quipped.

The televised extravaganza that gave the world 1970s Swedish supergroup ABBA is famous for raucous parties after which audiences and juries from across Europe vote for what some sceptics call the least offensive display of poor taste.

But this year's competition has added importance as it gives Ukraine a chance to showcase a new face to the world for the first time since a bloody 2014 pro-EU revolution pulled the former Soviet nation out of Russia's orbit.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said the global TV audience will witness "our European aspirations, our fight for freedom and independence" as a war with Russian-backed insurgents drags on 500 kms (300 miles) to the east.

The bookmakers' pick to win the final is the stylish Italian crooner Francesco Gabbani and his acrobatic if somewhat puzzling partner in a hairy black gorilla suit.

Less fancied is Azerbaijan's entry featuring brooding heroine Dihaj singing next to a man standing on a tripod ladder and wearing a horse's head.

And Romania's duet of Ilinca and Alex Florea may be the first to mix rap with yodelling on the big stage.

It is all in keeping with Eurovision's 62-year tradition of celebrating quirkiness and glamour that has been especially embraced by the LGBT community and those up for a night of laughs.

Fans have flocked to Kiev after Ukraine's Jamala won last year's event in Sweden with a ballad about the Soviet persecution of her ethnic Tatar people in Crimea.

Ukraine's sworn foe Russia was not impressed.

The Kremlin had already been ostracised by the West for annexing Crimea in 2014 and then backing a three-year separatist war in eastern Ukraine that has killed more than 10,000 people.

mined, incredibly brave and did everything he could to fight this horrendous disease," it said.

"Robert was more than just an artist, he

was a pioneer, a creator, an inspiration, a son, a father, our friend."

Spanish media reported he had died in Ibiza where he lived.



James Hetfield (from left), Lars Ulrich, Robert Trujillo and Kirk Hammett of the band Metallica perform in concert during the WorldWired Tour at M&T Bank Stadium on May 10 in Baltimore. (AP)

The Italian producer and composer, whose real name was **Roberto Concina**, began his career DJ-ing in clubs and on the radio in northern Italy before being catapulted to worldwide fame in the 1990s with "Children" for which he won a Brit award.

He later collaborated with other famous artists such as **Nitin Sawhney**, and worked on projects including the music of the film "The Bourne Identity" starring **Matt Damon**. (AFP)

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LOS ANGELES: ABRAMORAMA has acquired North American theatrical rights to **Scott Hamilton Kennedy**'s documentary "Food Evolution," Variety has learned exclusively.

The film, narrated by science communicator **Neil deGrasse Tyson**, will have its US theatrical premiere on June 23 at the Village East Cinemas in New York, followed by a nationwide release to select cities.

Food Evolution explores the controversy surrounding genetically modified organisms, or GMOs, and food. The film includes experts such as **Mark Lynas**, **Alison Van Eenennaam**, **Jeffrey Smith**, **Andrew Kimbrell**, **Vandana Shiva**, **Robert Fraley**, **Marion Nestle** and **Bill Nye**, as well as farmers and scientists from around the world. (RTRS)