

PREVIEW

Bent Knee build buzz on their travels

Known for their exhilarating live performances, the indie rockers will debut in Nanaimo on July 4

DAVID MORRISON FOR THE DAILY NEWS

This October marks forty years since my first rock concert. I have spent most of those four decades working in the music business, attending an average of over fifty shows per year, so have seen literally thousands of bands.

However, until last June I had never been party to anything quite like the overwhelming emotional experience that is the live spectacle of the Boston, Mass. band Bent Knee.

For the last four years my wife and I have kick-started our summer at a small music festival on Mayne Island.

It was perhaps an unlikely location to have served as the Canadian debut of this six-piece art-rock juggernaut, but in closing the festival Bent Knee delivered a towering set of progressive music so powerful that it left scores of attendees utterly stunned.

As the performance reached its climax, many were in tears and shaking their heads in disbelief. I know, as I was one of them.

There cannot have been more than a handful of people present that had heard Bent Knee before that show, but such was their impact that the band returned to Boston with hundreds of new fans.

Having kept tabs on their travels since that amazing night, the feedback appears to be the same wherever they play.

As the Bent Knee buzz grows deafening, a major breakthrough is surely imminent.

"It was exhilarating to have such a large group of people captivated and emotionally sparked by our music," says Bent Knee's formidable lead vocalist, Courtney Swain, of that Canadian show.

"The energy was tremendous, and we were all humbled and honoured (by the reaction)."

Formed at Boston's prestigious



Indie rockers Bent Knee play The Queen's on July 4 with Roberts Hall. [ZOE RUTH ERWIN PHOTO]

"It was exhilarating to have such a large group of people captivated and emotionally sparked by our music."

Courtney Swain, musician

Berklee College of Music in 2009, Bent Knee can boast not only stellar musicianship, but the rare personal and creative chemistry that can bring about genuine greatness.

This is already evident on

the band's two magnificent CD releases to date, on which Swain, Ben Levin (guitar), Chris Baum (violin), Jessica Kion (bass), Gavin Wallace-Ailsworth (drums) and sound designer Vince Welch have crafted an epic sound that is tough to pigeon-hole.

Collective influences include such as Radiohead, Led Zeppelin, Sufjan Stevens, Muse, Frank Zappa, Steve Vai and American modernist composer Charles Ives, all of whom and more colour Bent Knee's critically acclaimed music. Heavy psychedelic rock, baroque pop, folk, jazz and avant-garde influences

collide in a maelstrom of sonic grandeur, with Swain's seemingly pitch-perfect voice ranging from a sweet, delicate croon to a banshee-like howl.

A self-contained operation, they manage themselves, booking and self-financing their extensive North American tours. They are a band protective of creative independence, so that they make their Nanaimo debut on U.S. Independence Day could hardly be more fitting.

"We love playing and traveling in Canada," Swain says. "We are all really looking forward to coming to Nanaimo. Our hope is to play our music well, meet new

friends, have some good laughs, and at the end if we know that we'll be coming back and people want to hear us again, that's perfect."

Presented by Got Pop? Concerts, Bent Knee appear at The Queen's Hotel on July 4, with Roberts Hall opening. Doors at 7 p.m.

Tickets \$10 (\$15 at the door), available at Fascinating Rhythm, Lucid, Desire Tattoo, The Dog's Ear and the Queen's Hotel.

» Originally from the UK, David Morrison is a music industry veteran and freelance writer specializing in music, the arts, and travel.

let the silly boat games begin!

Kick Off Event
in support of
NANAIMO CHILD
DEVELOPMENT
CENTRE



Friday : July 3 : 11am-2pm

BBQ Lunch : Face Painting : Bouncy Castle
Entertainment : Raffle : Prizes
Event located in the parking lot near Subway.

Boat Building Competition
Canadian Tire vs London Drugs
See boat building in action!



NANAIMO NORTH

TOWN CENTRE

nanaimonorth.com



CORNER OF RUTHERFORD ROAD @ ISLAND HIGHWAY, NANAIMO

SEARS : CANADIAN TIRE : LONDON DRUGS
FAIRWAY MARKET : GALAXY THEATRES

Canadian Professional Management Services



2015 Summer Half Day Programs



Three Days, Six Essential Programs

1. Managing People for First Time Supervisors
2. Dealing with Workplace Conflict
3. Developing Leadership Skills
4. Using Progressive Discipline
5. Enhancing Employee Performance
6. Understanding Labour & Employment Law

Save \$240 when you and/or your colleagues register for a combined 6 or more half day programs at \$159 per seat plus tax. Individual programs, \$199 plus tax.

For more information on our courses please visit cpmsnational.com

or call 1-888-452-6422 / 604-688-2641

email registrations@cpmsnational.com

Canadian Professional Management Services Inc. is a management consulting firm that focuses on 'People and Leadership.' Our consultants have been providing advice on strategic planning, labour relations, leadership and professional development for over 20 years.

SAVE
UP TO
\$240!