

SOUNDCHECK



J.D. Fortune, Kirk Pengilly, Tim Farriss, Garry Gary Beers, Jon Farriss, Andrew Farriss

NEVER TEAR US APART
INXS revisits its past on the way to the future

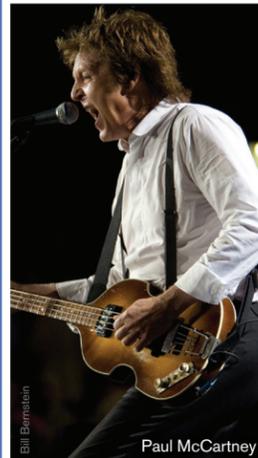
INXS plans to release a new album featuring rerecordings of its classic songs delivered by a roster of big-name guest vocalists. Among the singers to be included on *Original Sin*, due out Jan. 11, is one that may surprise longtime fans: J.D. Fortune, who was named the group's lead singer in a 2005 reality TV competition before leaving the band in a haze of uncertainty only last year. Fortune returned tentatively as a fill-in vocalist for several one-off performances earlier this year, and has now been confirmed as a permanent member once again. He is expected to tour with the group next year.

Meantime, Fortune must largely cede the microphone on *Original Sin* to acts like Ben Harper, Rob Thomas, Nikka Costa and Train's Pat Monahan. "INXS's songs set the table for singers," says Harper, who performs the group's classic ballad "Never Tear Us Apart." "In my opinion, they're any singer's dream songs to sing. Covering 'Never Tear Us Apart' is like covering [Otis Redding's] '(Sittin' on) the Dock of the Bay: I'm not here to make grandiose overstatements—it's just a fact, that is one of the greatest soul songs ever written.'

Most of the songs on *Original Sin* were written at least in part by INXS keyboardist and guitarist Andrew Farriss, many of those with late lead singer Michael Hutchence. The group worked with a number of vocalists following Hutchence's 1997 death before settling on Fortune. "I'm truly flattered that we have so many artists interested in working with us reimagining these songs," Farriss says. "In a sense, it's been reenergizing for us to look at ourselves differently in the context of being in 2010 rather than 30 years ago. I feel we're very much doing something that's now and significant." The album marks INXS's return to the newly revived Atco Records imprint, where the group enjoyed its greatest successes during the 1980s and early 1990s.

TOP TEN

A striking number of great musicians are left-handed. Here are just a few.



Paul McCartney

- 1 Paul McCartney** > The Beatles' bass player was a southpaw, as was bandmate Ringo Starr—who played drums right-handed nonetheless.
- 2 Jimi Hendrix** > The guitar great played left-handed but wrote and held eating utensils with his right, as his father had always insisted.
- 3 Kurt Cobain** > Nirvana's late frontman struggled to find left-handed versions of the '60s Fender Mustang guitars he preferred.
- 4 Albert King** > The late blues great was the rare lefty who played with his guitar strung in the traditionally right-handed fashion.
- 5 Billy Corgan** > The Smashing Pumpkins leader is naturally left-handed, but plays guitar like a rightie.
- 6 Kenny "Babyface" Edmonds** > Edmonds learned to play on a borrowed instrument strung for a right-hander, and still strings his guitar that way.
- 7 Tony Iommi** > As a lefty, losing the tips of two fingers on his right hand at 17 threatened—but later came to define—his fretting style.
- 8 Carter Beauford** > As a child, the Dave Matthews Band drummer set up his kit in front of a mirror to copy his right-handed heroes.
- 9 Doyle Bramhall II** > Like Edmonds, Bramhall grew up playing a guitar strung for right-handed players and continues to do so.
- 10 Bun E. Carlos** > Cheap Trick's drummer is naturally left-handed, but has occasionally played right-handed kits.

'I'VE BEEN PROVOKING PEOPLE SINCE I WAS A LITTLE GIRL.'
—MADONNA
1986

LIVE NOTES



Thursday

> THURSDAY plans to mark the 10th anniversary of its breakthrough sophomore effort, *Full Collapse*, with a tour during which the group will perform the album in its entirety each night. "Time passes and we embrace new music and different goals, but 10 years later *Full Collapse* continues to move people—and for that we are very grateful," says Thursday lead singer Geoff Rickly. "This tour is a celebration of those times and the end of a chapter in the life of Thursday." The tour is set to begin in January. The band has been at work since July on a new studio album scheduled for release sometime next year.

BEST WEEK EVER



Joseph Anthony Blake

Taylor Swift's new *Speak Now* album sold a million copies in its opening week, a once-common feat that has become increasingly rare in the last several years. Here are the best opening weeks since 2005.

50 Cent <i>The Massacre</i> (2005)	1,140,638
Taylor Swift <i>Speak Now</i> (2010)	1,046,718
Lil Wayne <i>Tha Carter III</i> (2008)	1,005,545
Kanye West <i>Graduation</i> (2007)	956,936
Kanye West <i>Late Registration</i> (2005)	860,330
AC/DC <i>Black Ice</i> (2008)	784,288
Alicia Keys <i>As I Am</i> (2007)	742,426

COMING SOON



Duran Duran

> Duran Duran (Dec. 21) The veteran pop group's first album since 2007 will actually be released in two stages. A nine-track digital version of *All You Need Is Now* is set to drop in December, while a 12-track configuration will be released in February on CD and vinyl. The set marks Duran Duran's first collaboration with hit producer Mark Ronson, who touts it as an "imaginary follow-up" to the group's 1982 classic *Rio*.



Autumn de Wilde

> The Decemberists (Jan. 18) Following 2009's elaborate *The Hazards of Love*, the group's upcoming *The King Is Dead* is a move toward a simpler, rootsier sound. "It's a real challenge to make simple music," says lead singer Colin Meloy, "and a lot of times we had to deliberately hold off and keep more space." Singer-songwriter Gillian Welch and R.E.M. guitarist Pete Buck make appearances on the album, which was produced by Tucker Martine.



Danny Clinch

Drive-By Truckers

> Drive-By Truckers (Feb. 15) *Go-Go Boots* was recorded during the same sessions as the band's previous release, *The Big To-Do*. "We recorded nearly 40 songs last year and into this year, and fairly early on divided it into two separate albums," explains singer and guitarist Patterson Hood. Its companion album was a straightforward rock effort, but Hood jokingly calls *Boots* "our country, soul, and murder-ballad album." The album will be accompanied by a documentary, *The Secret to a Happy Ending*.



Adele

> Adele (Feb. 22) The previous album by the Grammy-winning English singer and songwriter was named *19*, after her age at the time it was written—so naturally her forthcoming studio set is called *21*. The singer says she found creative motivation by listening to favorite artists like Alison Krauss, Neko Case, the SteelDrivers, Mary J. Blige and Tom Waits. "There's something in every single one of these artists that has really, really inspired *21*," she says.

IN THE STUDIO



Eliot Rubin

Snoop Dogg

HIP-HOP GIANT SNOOP DOGG DECIDED to give fans a peek into the creative process as he records his upcoming 11th album. Snoop plans to document the recording

'I'M NOT REALLY TALENTED AT ANYTHING EXCEPT FOR THE ABILITY TO LEARN.'
—KANYE WEST
2005

of the aptly titled *Doggumentary Music* via live sessions on the streaming-video site Ustream, as well as regular updates through social networking platforms. "I have been in the game for so long, and still have the same passion I did when I first started," says the veteran rapper. "I want my fans to ride with me on this one, and know that I am so focused on bringing good music to them. It's called *Doggumentary Music* because this is my life, and I want to share my music, and my process of making it, with the fans." The album is set for release in March. The first single, "New Year's Eve," is available now through iTunes.