

the Sunday MUSIC



By
ANNA GAULT

KASABIAN guitarist Serge Pizzorno loves his rock 'n' roll lifestyle — but admits he wouldn't mind moving out of the spotlight to live on a remote Scottish island.

The musician, *right*, fancies pulling a Paul McCartney, who bought hideaway Home Farm on Mull of Kintyre to escape the hectic world of showbiz.

Serge says: "I wouldn't rule out moving to Scotland."

"Now and again I have these romantic ideas of escaping like McCartney did — buy a farmhouse there in the middle of nowhere."

"I'd get a little studio and disappear for a bit. It sounds great."

Serge also talks of his pride at pal Noel Fielding's hosting skills on the newest series of *The Great British Bake-Off*, *above*.

GBBO co-host Noel previously revealed it was Serge who convinced him to take the gig.

The show, which crowned winner Sophie Faldo last month, proved a huge hit after moving from BBC2 to Channel 4.

And Serge thinks a lot of that is thanks to his comedian mate.

He says: "I am sure people assumed he was going to turn up like he was in the *Wicker Man*, *Morris dancing* and everything, but when you know him he is really the sweetest guy and really intelligent."

"And I knew he would get on with people and be a support for the contestants because he is just a real nice person."

Serge reckons Noel and Kasabian are cut from similar cloth — they're cult outsiders who have achieved huge mainstream success.

He says: "Back in the day Noel did a mainstream Cadbury's chocolate advert. Infiltration was at the heart of it — to reach that amount of people and get more interest in his characters to become big."

"It's also what we are about as a band. We have no real right to be as big as we are. We are not run of the mill."

Kasabian played the SSE Hydro in Glasgow last weekend but Serge



I dream of escaping crazy life in showbiz



reckons one of the best gigs ever was at the maiden TRNSMT festival earlier in the summer.

The bash was staged at Glasgow Green and proved a huge success as the sister festival for T in the Park while the main event takes a hiatus.

Serge says: "The TRNSMT gig — I am still shaking from that experience. It was insane"

"It was absolutely phenomenal. We have played a hell of a lot of shows but that was right up there."

"T in the Park has the same vibe but there was just something about being in the centre of the city."

But Serge, who has Italian heritage, adds:

"T in the Park has always had a special home in our hearts. They are having some problems but it's got the history."

"I remember being on stage there when Italy won the World Cup in 2006 so it's significant to me."

Kasabian hit No1 in the album charts for the fifth time in May, with songs such as *You're in Love With A Psycho* becoming festival favourites.

Serge reveals that he knows a fair few "psychos" but insists it's a term of endearment — and one he applies to Line of Duty actor Martin Compston.

He says: "The most psycho Scottish person I know — in the way a

stuntman would jump 20 cars — is probably Martin Compston."

"He is an absolutely beautiful man but he has also got some big moves, that's all I am saying."

"We played years ago up in Scotland and I met him afterwards. He was sound so we had a right good laugh. He is a good boy."

Last month Liam Gallagher, *above right*, hit out at Kasabian, *above*, after Serge and his bandmates claimed they were "saving guitar

music". But Serge insists the former Oasis frontman is actually on good terms with the Leicester group.

He says: "It's just banter. I saw Liam the other night and we had a right laugh."

"People don't realise that we know each other so we are fine."

Right now, Serge is juggling life on the road with life as a dad to sons Ennio and Lucio.

He says: "It's just who I am. It's how I live."

"I find it pretty easy to get home and just be a dad and look after my boys as best I can."

"It is nice that I do get long periods when it is just me and my family."

● For details on Kasabian's upcoming gigs log onto kasabian.co.uk/live
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THE 101

WHERE: Aberdeen.

WHO: Dexter Fawcett (vocals/synth), Ross Buchan (guitar), Matthew Read (guitar/vocals), Nick Cameron (bass), Cameron Stephen (drums/vocals).

FOR FANS OF: Keane, Two Door Cinema Club, Circa Waves.

JIM SAYS: If you want uplifting indie pop, look no further than Aberdeen teenagers The 101. They have their roots in school bands with Dexter Fawcett and Ross Buchan first jamming together in the music room at Robert Gordon's College.

They became a five-piece last year with school-mates Nick Cameron and Cameron Stephen joining the fold. The line-up is completed by Matthew Read, who was at Harlaw Academy in the city.

Eighteen-year-olds Dexter, Ross and Nick are now studying at The University of Edinburgh, while Matthew, also 18, is at uni in Aberdeen, while 17-year-old Cameron is still at school.

Dexter said: "Although we thought it might cause problems being spread across the country, it has worked out well. We've been building a fan-base in Edinburgh while sustaining what we had in Aberdeen. In terms of practice, we usually meet



NEW MUSIC

By Jim Gellatly

up a week or two before a gig. It's very low maintenance and gives us chance to spend some time back home."

Recording their self-titled debut EP at Toy Town Studios in Kilmarnock in February, they soon released their first single *Not You But Me*. They celebrated the EP release in April with their first major headline show at The Lemon Tree in Aberdeen. Dexter said: "The pure shock of selling out The Lemon Tree has to be a highlight."

Another stand-out on the EP is *Carefree Normality*. They've also done a stunning version of the track accompanied by Robert Gordon's College Chamber Choir. Dexter added: "The phenomenal

reception and feedback to the EP made us hungry to write and record more. We got in touch with a fantastic producer, Mark Morrow, in Edinburgh and went down to his studio and recorded our second single *Cliché*, which came out last month."

With a live performance on STV2's *Live At Five* in October, last month they picked up the One To Watch award at the Original 106 Pride Of Aberdeen Awards. The 101 are now set to undertake their first Scottish tour as part of the Hit The Road programme. Run by the Scottish Music Centre, Hit The Road is supported by Creative Scotland's Youth Music Initiative and the PRS Foundation.

Joining them are Edinburgh's Bellarose and Last Light from Glasgow. With three dates across the country, each act headlines their local showcase. The tour takes in The Attic at the Garage in Glasgow (December 15), Edinburgh's Mash House (Dec 16) and The Tunnels in Aberdeen (Dec 17). The 101 will then play a headline gig at Café Drummond in Aberdeen on January 13, before heading back to the studio.

MORE: facebook.com/the101official
● Jim presents a weekly showcase of New Music on Amazing Radio Sundays 2-4pm.

amazingradio.com
jimgellatly.com

▶ Watch a video of the band playing at: www.thescottishsun.co.uk