

music

Show
stopped

Zooma tour organizers pulled the plug Friday, citing "unforeseen circumstances." **Billboard.com** reported that tickets sales were too low. Trey Anastasio and Ben Harper were headliners on the tour, which was to stop at the Alpine Valley Music Theatre on July 16. Tickets can be refunded at point of purchase.

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Melody makers

Jurassic 5 always in tune with hip-hop's history

By Benji Feldheim
for RedEye

Many people still don't consider hip-hop legitimate music. Some argue against its validity because of the violent imagery and misogyny, while others don't see the musicianship in mixing prerecorded music.

But listen to Jurassic 5—with its four MCs and two DJs—and you'll hear the music. The L.A. tribe conjures thoughtful, slick and simple rhyme flows set to smooth, melodic hooks. They exert fresh confidence and warm optimism, but never cease to bring the house down with their own party anthems, turntable trickery and well-honed freestyle.

"Melody is most important, because it is music," Chicago-born rapper Chali 2na said. "We basically try to incorporate harmonies in whatever we do. We respect music as an art form, and we respect the earlier cats in the hip-hop game."

Over the years, the band has strengthened its live show, as they are sure to prove Thursday when they play a Tweeter Center concert with the Dave Matthews Band. The DJs do scratch battles, and rapper Nu-Mark plays the drums. The group has freestyle battles, and each MC takes a turn as the man in charge. Yet, they stick together as a group.

"We've been doing freestyle together for, like, 10 years, so we know each other's weak points and strong points," Chali said. "We all run it like a team. Whether there's Michael Jordans or Kobe Bryants on the team, no one man makes a team."

Jurassic 5 formed its team out of a partnership between Unity Committee, which featured DJ Cut Chemist and rappers Mark 7 and Chali, and the Rebels of Rhythm,



GETTY IMAGES

Jurassic 5—with its four MCs and two DJs—plays Thursday at the Tweeter Center with the Dave Matthews Band.

made up of rappers Zaakir and Akil. In 1991, they performed at open mics at The Good Life Cafe, a focal point for the L.A. underground scene. Nu-Mark joined later.

Both groups appreciated each other's use of melody and respect for older hip-hop, and in 1993 collaborated on the single "Unified Rebelution." TVT Records signed them, but the group needed a name.

"I played the song for my son's mom, and she was like, 'This is a dope song,'" Chali said. "'You guys think you sound like the Fantastic Five, but you sound more like the Jurassic Five.' She walked out the room, and

I was like, 'Oh my gawd!'"

The single "Concrete Schoolyard" exemplified the Jurassic 5's use of clever subtlety and found its way to Interscope Records, who signed the band in 2000. Jurassic released the successful "Quality Control" and followed it up with "Power in Numbers," exhibiting darker expressions and heavier beats. The band is finishing the mix of its new record, set to drop just before 2006. Dave Matthews will appear on the CD, Chali said.

"With the new J5 record, we tried to do songs that we felt and let the music dictate

the pace of what we wrote," Chali said. "Each song pushes the music farther, you know what I'm sayin'? These songs are as far forward as we can go, but at the same as far back as we can go. So, what we got is old J5, but with all the experimentation we've been doing on the way."

The band remains committed to maintaining crafty integrity in hip-hop music.

"I hope that we keep making music in a way that touches people and helps them instead of hurting them," Chali said. "We don't like to waste words." —BENJI FELDHEIM IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

SNAP JUDGMENT

Oasis

"Don't Believe the Truth"

Oasis' last CD, "Heathen Chemistry," gave us every indication the Britpop band was poised for a comeback. Full of songs that could have been hit singles (but weren't), it was just reward after inflicting us with two lackluster follow-ups to "(What's the Story) Morning Glory." Well, don't believe the hype, and "Don't Believe the Truth" is why. Noel Gallagher has turned the songwriting into a democracy and, while there's no shortage of ideas, the



results are less than spectacular. Only "Let There Be Love" is an outright disaster, although the banal "Lyla" has no business being a single. The rest—with its unpolished, tempered garage rock and psychedelic leanings—

never really hits its sweet spot, as the melodies seem rote and the riffs are as uninspired as ever.

Best track: "Keep the Dream Alive" is buoyed by an elegiac guitar melody that should have been sung by Noel. —BLAIR R. FISCHER, REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR

CD RACK

New in stores Tuesday

- **Better Than Ezra**, "Before the Robots"
- **Bjork**, "Army of Me: Remixes and Covers"
- **The Dead 60's**, "The Dead 60's"
- **Four Tet**, "Everything Ecstatic"
- **GWAR**, "Live from Mt. Fuji"
- **Ike & Tina Turner**, "40 Great Performances" box set



- **Kottonmouth Kings**, "Kottonmouth Kings No. 7"
- **Layzie Bone**, "It's Not a Game" ◀
- **Maximo Park**, "A Certain Trigger"
- **Meshuggah**, "Catch Thirty-Three"
- **Oasis**, "Don't Believe the Truth"

- **Tosca**, "J.A.C." ◀
- **Various artists**, "Rock School" soundtrack

For complete music listings, check out metromix.com.

