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**MUSIC**

ANDY HOWELLS chats to lead singer of The Merseybeats TONY CRANE on the 50th anniversary of their debut hit

Where's the Bass!

BASS Culture Clash takes place in Newport this weekend.

A stage-show like no other; artists, including Top Cat and Skibadee, go against the hottest new acts in UK bass such as Stylo G and Lady Leshurr in a live battle, led by The Heatwave (pictured). The Bass Culture Clash Tour aims to bring some of the UK's most exciting acts together to provide the ultimate experience of a UK bass battle, in a live-music set-up.

Bass Culture Clash featuring The Heatwave, Top Cat, Stylo G, Lady Leshurr and many more at Mojo's, Newport, on March 2, tickets £7-£10 from mistaifsta.fatsoma.com



Catch Trail of Dead

LAST year And You Will Know Us By The Trail Of The Dead released their critically acclaimed new studio album *Lost Songs*, a record which Kerrang! declared 'sharp, focused and driven' and 'a truly individual voice'.

Trail of Dead are returning to Europe in March and April, where they will be bringing special guests Turbowolf out for the UK shows.

You can catch them live at The Great Hall, Cardiff, on April 22. Visit seetickets.com for full details.

'Sixties go on for ever'



NO SORROW: 1960s chart act The Merseybeats, featuring Tony Crane (second from left), will play St David's Hall later this month

RECENTLY, the 50th anniversary of the recording of The Beatles' debut album *Please Please Me* was celebrated with several notable acts recreating the legendary release in under a day.

One participating act was fellow Mersey sound group The Merseybeats, currently celebrating 50 years since entering the charts with their debut single.

However, The Merseybeats' story began much earlier than 1963, as front man Tony Crane told me.

"I saw Eddie Calvert on television, the man with golden trumpet," says Tony, who grew up in Anfield during the 1950s. "I thought, 'God that looks good, I bet he's got all the girls after him!'"

Tony pleaded with his parents to buy him a trumpet, but instead they suggested he join the church band as they couldn't afford one. "When it came to rock 'n' roll starting, I remember going to the cinema to see Elvis in *Love Me Tender* and the trumpet got thrown

Interview

away," Tony continues. "I pleaded with my parents to buy me a guitar. They bought it at 2/6 week from the back of *The Reveille*. I just wanted to be like Elvis, but I was still too young to do anything about it."

On leaving school, Tony joined Liverpool's Royal Liver Building as an insurance clerk, but despite his good job, he still yearned to be a musician. A colleague introduced Tony to school-boy Billy Kinsley. Then things really got started.

"I met Billy and we realised we could sound just like The Everly Brothers - and that was the beginning of the band. We got two friends in and called ourselves The Mavericks."

A meeting with Cavern Club DJ Bob Wooller got the band their first professional booking at the Aintree Institute, but not before a name change: "The local paper came out. We ran down to The Cavern -

because we lived within running distance. I said: 'You said you were booking us on this, there's some other band on called the Merseybeats. Who are they?'

"Bob said: 'No, that's, yourselves', and we went: 'Oh no, you might as well have called us *The Liverpool Echo!*'"

"*Mersey beat* was only the name of the paper, the music was never called Mersey beat: we thought

music was the Mersey sound, the 'beat' came in much later on."

The newly named Merseybeats, along with another band called The Beatles, became resident at The Cavern Club. "We hold the record for playing on the

same bill with the Beatles," says Tony, "We became very close and when they went outside Liverpool, they always wanted us on their show with them."

The Merseybeats signed to Fontana records in 1963 and as the Mersey Sound took over the British charts, they began a succession of hits across the world including *I Think of You*, *Wishin' and Hopin'* and *Sorrow*. The band's success even landed them a TV series in Italy.

This year sees the 50th anniversary of The Merseybeats' first chart hit, *It's Love That Really Counts*.

The anniversary coincides with the band appearing at



SIXTIES STARS: The Merseybeats

Counting down the Minutes until icon releases her album

FANS of world-renowned musical icon Alison Moyet, will be pleased to know she is about to release a new album *The Minutes* on May 6, as well as embark on a UK tour which will see her return to Cardiff's St David's Hall later this year.

Her first album since 2007, *The Minutes*, was written with and produced by Guy Sigsworth, known for his work with Frou Frou, Robyn, Björk, Goldie and Madonna.

It finds Alison's voice strong and seductive on a collection of exceptional songs. Experimental, captivating and entirely cohesive, this is beauty with an edge.

"I avoided listening to anything during the process of writing and recording this album, choosing instead to be lead by my own melodic voice," says Alison. "Guy Sigsworth returns me to a programmer's world and marries it with

Female Vocal

perfect musicality. I have been waiting for him.

"This has easily been my happiest studio experience."

A Basildon girl born to a French father and English mother, Alison left school at 16. She began her musical journey in punk bands and on the Canvey Island pub rock scene.

Her study of piano tuning came to an abrupt halt when *Only You* became a worldwide hit for her and Vince Clarke, the duo otherwise known as Yazoo.

Completely by accident, she found herself thrust into the spotlight of the mainstream pop world.

Alison will be visiting St David's Hall on October 20.

For details or more ticket information contact 029 20 878 444 or you can visit stdavidshallcardiff.co.uk



ON TOUR: Alison Moyet

MOTORPOINT arena		
10th March 2013 Olivia Newton-John From 36.50 Seated	4th May 2013 Cage Warriors Fighting Championship John Phillips v Jessie Taylor From £25.00 Seated	2nd - 4th August 2013 Strictly Confidential From £32.50 Seated
29th March 2013 Harlem Globetrotters "You Write The Rules" World Tour From £12.50 Seated	10th May 2013 MCFLY £27.50 Seated/standing	RE-SCHEDULED DATE 8th October 2013 Jesus Christ Superstar From £45.00 Seated
6th April 2013 Alfie Boe From £25.00 Seated	11th May 2013 The Big Reunion Five, Liberty X, Atomic Kitten, B*Witched 911, The Honeyz From £30.00 Seated	31st October 2013 Micky Flanagan £23.50 Seated
13th & 14th April 2013 CBeebies Live! Presents Justin & Friends Adults from £16.00 Children from £13.00 Family tickets from £52.00 Seating	12th May 2013 Leona Lewis From £35.00 Seated	1st & 2nd November 2013 Micky Flanagan £24.50 Seated
18th April 2013 Il Divo & Katherine Jenkins From £35.00 Seated	22nd May 2013 Mark Knopfler From £41.00 Seated	2nd December 2013 Boyzone £220 Anniversary Tour £35.50 Seated
20th April 2013 Cesair Milan "Trust Your Instincts Live Tour 2013" £39.50 Seated	26th May 2013 Journey & Whitesnake Plus Special Guests Thunder £45.00 Standing	14th December 2013 Diversity Presents Limitless £23.50 Seated
21st April 2013 Meatloaf "The Final Tour" From £45.00 Seated	17th/29th/30th May 2013 Eddie Izzard "Force Majeure World Tour" £35.00 Seated	18th December 2013 JLS Plus Support £33.50 Seated
22nd April 2013 WWE Smackdown From £25.00 Seated	14th June 2013 Bonnie Raitt "Slipstream Tour" 2013 From £28.50 Seated	19th December 2013 Jools Holland and His Rhythm & Blues Orchestra Plus Special Guest Melanie C £33.50 Seated
	25th June 2013 The Who Quadrophenia and More From £60.00 Seated	12th March 2014 Jack Whitehall Gets Around Tour £28.50 STD £25.00 NUS Seated

MOTORPOINT ARENA CARDIFF.CO.UK

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