



Q&A: Robin Pecknold

Fleet Foxes singer adds harmonies to MusicNOW lineup

By Daniele Pfarr
Metromix

Without even knowing Robin Pecknold, a fan can somewhat discern a calm and humble demeanor, especially if you read past articles written about him. I imagine a first-time listener slack-jawed and bright-eyed after hearing the band's harmonies, partnered with the sounds to which our parents listened, and the general talent that spews from every outlet of the band's sound. That's the Fleet Foxes, the band that Pecknold fronts.

There is much more to him than meets the eye. For example, he writes film scores for fun. And for those who follow Pecknold's musical ventures, you'll be excited to read about Rainbow Fang's plans.

Question: What is your earliest musical memory?

Answer: My earliest musical memory would probably just be my dad playing the guitar at night, this particular guitar that is still kicking around.

Q: Describe your songwriting process. What influences come into play?

A: It mostly involves just sitting down in the middle of the night at the practice space and playing until something happens or doesn't happen. I try and just leave myself open to whatever might happen, with varying degrees of success! Influences can be broad. I guess lately I've been having fun learning sort of open tuning guitar technique in the style of, say, Robbie Basho or Leo Kottke, so that might pop up on the next album.

If you go

What: MusicNOW Festival
Where: Memorial Hall, 1225 Elm St., Downtown
When: 8 p.m. March 30 – April 1
Tuesday: Joanna Newsom and Robin Pecknold
Wednesday: St. Vincent and yMusic
Thursday: Justin Vernon (of Bon Iver) and Colin Stetson (SOLD OUT)
Tickets: Single tickets are \$20, three-day passes are sold out
Contact: www.musicnowfestival.org or musicnowfestival@gmail.com
More online: Read our interview with Annie Clark of St. Vincent at cincinnati.metromix.com/music

album.

Q: When you're not playing with Fleet Foxes, I notice that you remain involved in other musical projects (White Antelope, with Morgan Henderson and your sister Aja). Are you a workaholic?

A: The band with Morgan and Aja is semi-jokingly called Rainbow Fang, which has sadly been put on the back burner while work on the next Fleet Foxes record ramps up. I think it's easy to get burnt out just doing one thing and having been in band land for a while now, it was necessary to do some other stuff and also just let some time pass before starting to record again. White Antelope is just a place to put covers of old songs that I think are



Provided

The Fleet Foxes from left: Casey Wescott, J. Tillman, Christian Wargo, Robin Pecknold, Sklyer Skjelset

Meet Robin Pecknold

Who he is: Singer, songwriter and guitarist for the band Fleet Foxes

Hometown: Seattle

Latest project: Touring with Joanna Newsom solo, working on Fleet Foxes' second full-length album (due sometime in 2010)

Other projects: Has a band with his sister, Aja, called Rainbow Fang. He uses the moniker White Antelope for his solo ventures.

Sounds like: The music your parents love – The Beach Boys, Simon and Garfunkel – killer harmonies

Official Web site: www.myspace.com/fleetfoxes

great, it's all just for fun.

Q: Do you have any plans to release a record under White Antelope or Rainbow Fang?

A: Definitely plans to do a Rainbow Fang release, but as far as White Antelope goes, we all know that animal names are over.

Q: When can fans expect the second Fleet Foxes album, and how will it compare to the first one?

A: I would say at some point in the next 12 months, just to be safe, but likely on the sooner rather than later half of that prediction. We are going to record as soon as I get home from the short tour with Joanna Newsom. As far as how it compares to the first one, I would have trouble saying at this point. I think in some ways it will be an obvious continuation and in others it'll be surprising; hopefully, the feeling of the instrumentation will be quite different.

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