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Kin come 'home' for new CD release

Thursday, October 18, 2007

By **GEORGE LENKER**

Although he and his bandmate brother are from the other side of the planet, Issac Koren of the Kin thinks of their upcoming Northampton concert as sort of a homecoming.

"Northampton is kind of our home crowd," Koren said. "The way we've been welcomed there is incredible."

The band, which is made up of Australian brothers Isaac and Thorry Koren accompanied by drummer Shaker Leg (aka Mark Nicosia), will play a CD release show at the Iron Horse Music Hall on Tuesday at 7 p.m.

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The band's first nationally distributed release, "Rise and Fall," was issued by Ryko on Oct. 10. The band has become a local favorite through its stints as an opening act for artists such as the Saw Doctors. Tuesday's show is the Kin's chance in the spotlight, however.

"It's the first time we've headlined at the Iron Horse and we're pretty excited about it," Koren said.

Koren called "Rise and Fall" the band's "first real release."

"Like any band, we made a few little albums on our own but this is the first time we had a real budget and real distribution for it," he said. "We're really grateful and humbled by it all."

The band took a rather

unique approach to the recording, laying down the tracks in an 18th century farmhouse in Pennsylvania rather than a studio. Originally the band rented the house to practice and do preproduction for the CD, but producer Nic Hard (who has worked with artists such as the Bravery and Rick Warren) decided the whole CD should be recorded there.

"The first thing he said when he saw the house is, 'You're going to record in this house; we're not going to a studio,' and then he told us we were going to play everything ourselves and not bring in outside musicians," Isaac Koren said.

This approach resulted in a freedom not available in a studio, Koren added.

"We recorded some of the drums in a field and the sound caught echo off old stone walls," he said. "It was great."

For their current tour, the brothers are keeping things sparse, using only drummer Nicosia to accompany them. Thorry Koren said this approach was more about the music than anything else.

"It wasn't really about economy, we just didn't want to return to being a full band," he said. "We wanted to strip back and find out what we really were."

The brothers' approach to songwriting also played a major role in how "Rise and Fall" came out. Thorry Koren said they like songs that seem like they come through the songwriter.

"I believe songwriters are just conduits for songs," he said. "If a song is worth being played, it's usually something that has come through you. This album is a bunch of songs that were written though us."

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