

Diverse musical trio offers a world of sound to city

Impressive trio of talent have fun making music

By Lynn Welburn, Daily News March 4, 2010

Guitarist Pavlo has long had a dream that Pavlo, Rik Emmett and Oscar Lopez have originated with his long-standing inspiration from the guitar trio of John McLaughlin, Al DiMeola and Paco DeLucia.

"I wanted to do something similar, a group of guitarists who could play together and make some great sounds, something that would build out of their different styles and passions," Pavlo says.

And while the trio that finally formed has proven a winning combination, it didn't start easily.

"We're all touring musicians so getting the time to work together took some planning, but when we started playing together, the chemistry was instant, we all just work so well together," he says.

"It doesn't always come easily any time you have several musicians working together, but this did because we all have the same goals, to make great music."

One common element they have is that they are all working, touring musicians and have been for years.

"We're not the American Idol teen singers talking about love," he says. "Nothing wrong with that, but we're all the real deal and we've been making music and touring our music for decades."

And the experience shows, he says, partly in the way they've blended three diverse styles and

personalities.

"I have learned so much working with these guys," says Pavlo,. "Rik is 'the professor' who holds us together. He's the white cream in this crazy Oreo cookie.

"Oscar is unpredictable. You never know what will come out of his mouth or off his fingers.

"And me, I'm in the middle. But with our different personalities, we have a lot of mutual respect."

The three experienced guitarists, all from widely different backgrounds, have forged brilliant solo careers independently, garnering accolades along the way and winning plenty of critical praise for their individual talents and bodies of work.

Pavlo's even recordings have sold more than 500,000 copies.

Lopez's Latin guitar groove has made him a stand-out on the world music scene. Never afraid to venture into different genres, Lopez easily incorporates jazz, blues, and even pop sensibilities into his music.

Versatile tenor Emmett has his fair share of gold and platinum hanging on the wall after surviving three decades in the music biz.

With Trifecta, they now have a common identity, a goal formed by their love of music and dedicated to the romantic spirit of the guitar.

The three click so well that the work comes surprisingly easily. In one week, they'd written 80% of the music that would become Trifecta, billed as "a debut CD of Mediterranean magic, triumphant fusion and hot Latin fire" and which has just been nominated for a Juno in the Instrumental Album category.

It's also been selling well and Pavlo thinks that's an indication that a lot of music lovers are looking for something different from the pop tunes so beloved of radio stations.

And now the album is being toured, and that's what will bring the trio to Nanaimo on March 12 to play the Port Theatre.

"We're doing 50 shows in a 29-city tour and it's been a blast," says Pavlo. They'll hit Nanaimo fairly early into their second leg of the tour and that means, he jokes, "we'll be in Nanaimo right at our peak."

As always, he says, the audience can expect not only master guitar work honed from decades of making music, but also lively sense of fun that comes from loving what they do and the creative friendship they have achieved.

"We enjoy what we're doing a lot, we're touring our art and that's at the core of what we do each night on stage.

And we have a lot of fun doing it and I think that shows, I think that translates to the audience that we really love all of this."

Their musical journey goes from tender, playful, intimate melodies to dizzying, spiraling solos that will take your breath away. From Latin rhumba to swinging jump: from bossa nova to rock & roll: from a child's lullaby to a Mardi Gras Fiesta, the P.R.O. trio takes their guitars and goes supernova, lighting up everything they touch with their passion.

For more information on the trio and to hear their music, go online to www.pavlorikoscar.com/music.php.

For tickets to the Port show, call 250-754-8550 or go online to www.porttheatre.com.

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