

sonicmuse

Matt & Kim hopes for another entertaining show at Sonic Muse Festival (last time, there were balloons)



New York duo Matt and Kim will tell you that there ain't no party like a Cincinnati party.

RODNEY WILSON | CIN WEEKLY CONTRIBUTOR

When the vivacious duo of Matt and Kim roll into town for the 12-band Sonic Muse Festival, they will bring with them high expectations for the conduct of their audience.

"The last two times we were in Cincinnati, there were like balloons and streamers and pizza," Matt says.

"Not last time but the time before, Matt had people come up on stage and it got so out of hand that our whole speaker cabinet was knocked over. It was awesome," Kim adds. "The other show in Cincinnati, there was so much crowd surfing and craziness, didn't that kid hit himself in the head with a fan?"

"He got hit with a beer bong!" Matt says, laughing. "People were funneling beer right in front of us in the crowd!"



The Hold Steady



Ted Leo & The Pharmacists



Birds of Avalon

JUST THE FACTS

WHAT: Sonic Muse Festival featuring Matt and Kim, Ted Leo & The Pharmacists, The Hold Steady, Birds of Avalon, Bad Veins, The Read, The Seedy Seeds, The Great Depression, Angels Of Meth, The Virgins, Viva La Fox and Pearlene

WHEN: 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 5

WHERE: Madison Theater, 730 Madison Ave., Covington

PRICE: \$20

PARKING: On street or nearby lots and garages (\$3-\$5)

CONTACT: 859-491-2444, www.myspace.com/sonicmusefest or www.mattandkimmusic.com

BRINGING THE PARTY

For the New York duo, a party atmosphere – from toppling equipment to beer bong injuries – is intrinsic to the music they play. An amalgam of punk energy, pop melody and new wave instrumentation, Matt and Kim's music is both of and for a night of dancing, drinking and debauchery.

"We came up with the Brooklyn loft party, kind of bring your own booze and get drunk, go out and have fun kind of scene," Matt explains. "Not like the sterile little clubs. Where we came up, it was always about having fun.

"One time we were asked if we were offended that we got pigeonholed into this 'party band' thing and everything that comes with

that," he continues, "and I was like, 'first of all, I don't know what that means, but if a party band is a band I go and have fun seeing then I'm totally down with it.'"

Feeding the merrymaking and mayhem of a typical Matt and Kim audience is the notoriously happy couple themselves – they spend whole shows singing through wide smiles and playing their respective instruments (Matt plays synths/keyboards and Kim plays drums) with reckless abandon.

"Where we play from is we think it's fun and it shows," Matt says. "People-wise, we're upbeat in general, but for ourselves, to play songs and sing – we're pretty psyched. Even when it's been like a hot, long freakin' drive and I am in a bad mood, playing music stokes me and I get psyched. I might not be totally pumped the first couple of songs if it's been a long, hard day, but I get psyched because it's fun."

THE HAPPY COUPLE

Adding to Matt and Kim's exuberance is the fact that they're more than just a band – they're a full-time couple, with music as just another facet of their relationship.

"We were dating for three years before (the band)," Kim says. "Matt was writing all this music but wasn't doing anything with it, and I always wanted to play the drums, so we kind of just started writing stuff in the bedroom. We'd towel over the drums and turn the keyboards down and figure s— out, and then it turned into this somehow."

For many relationships, working together can be a stressor, but the upbeat couple relishes that they get to do what they love. And you can be sure those smiles are for real every time – they're really that happy.

"I don't know when someone decided that bands should look bored on stage, but I don't think people respond to that," Matt says.

"I think you should be how you feel," Kim adds.

"Yeah, you should be honest. That's always been my opinion. Kim and I are always psyched to play music and that always kind of shows up. Except when we get pinned into 'cute.'"

"I hate that," Kim says.

"We're not huge fans of 'cute.'"

"No one ever wants to see a band because they're 'cute.'"

"I'd be more likely to not want to see a band because they're 'cute.'"

So when you head to Covington to see Matt and Kim play, please leave your condescending adjectives at home. But do bring your dancing shoes, your crowd surfing clothes and a little something extra ...

"I just hope that someone brings balloons or streamers to keep the Cincinnati/Kentucky thing alive," Matt laughs.