

Scranton, PA

ear full

Band of 'Destiny'

Silverchair's new record further solidifies rock immortality

Mozart had it. Beethoven had it. The Beatles had it. Chuck Berry didn't have it — he was just really good.

Elvis had it and tried to eat it. Richard Marx did not have it. A-Ha had it for like one song.

So goes the *Reader's Digest* history of the coveted Pick of Destiny, according to Jack Black and Kyle Gass, aka Tenacious D. And who holds the Pick today?

Silverchair.

Yup. On the strength of its debut album *Frogstomp*, the Aussie trio has moved six million records, including five number-one discs in The Outback. That's more than any other Australian group — Midnight Oil, AC/DC, and Crowded House included.

The newest release to hit that top spot is *Young Modern*, which signifies the band's return after a four-year hiatus. *Modern* debuted at number one, with the single "Straight Lines" becoming the band's biggest hit since "Tomorrow."

That CD hits the U.S. this week during Silverchair's American tour. We caught up with bassist Chris Joannou, who phoned in from a tour stop in Seattle.

How's American reaction been?

Our first show was last night and the crowd was amazing. We were quite blown away, to be honest.

Has it been tough to retain fans?

We've been pretty lucky in that our fans have always been loyal. And on this album, there's a whole other group of people that will discover Silverchair where with past records, you might not like the band. They're really hearing something different.

After four years, is this album everything you expected?

It was that and more. All three of us were extremely happy with how the record turned out. We funded it ourselves and made no compromises along the way. This has been the most enjoyable experience ever in this band.

Is self-funding a must these days?

That's a hard one. I just think it was a good experience not having anyone else in the room except us. We just locked ourselves in we were there not to please anyone but ourselves and it made a much better product.

How do you feel when you hear *Frogstomp*?

We haven't played anything off that album for quite a while now. It's not that we don't like it or we're embarrassed by it or anything, but it was our first step and most people's first albums probably wouldn't get that level of success. We're a completely different band



And we all shiner on: Silverchair.

now than what we were back then. If we played that stuff, we'd just be going through the motions. We'd rather be playing the songs we love the most, and be real about it.

Just how big are you in Australia?

Well, America's a very different market than other parts of the world. People here tell us that *Diorama* has a cult following, which is odd because in Australia it was quite mainstream. It's interesting to come over here and see the differences.

So where is the Pick of Destiny?

Well, it's a secretive thing. It's like a code. You're not allowed to talk about it. (laughs).

Silverchair will play Fillmore at the TLA, Philadelphia, this Saturday, July 28. Tickets are available at all Ticketmaster outlets. Contrary to popular belief, Rush never held the Pick of Destiny. Jack Black said the Pick has never made it to Canada, but if it did, "Rush would have written better lyrics."

—gene padden