

New albums in the pipeline.
Clear space on your iPod...



Easy does it: Biffy Clyro (from left, James and Ben Johnston, Simon Neil) at The Village studios, LA; (inset) oh, the fun you can have playing Face Melter!

DOUBLE VISION

Scottish rockers Biffy Clyro cram as many ideas as possible into their forthcoming double-album epic.



Inside The Village recording complex in Los Angeles it's another busy day for Biffy Clyro. There's a trumpet part to tweak, preparations are in hand for a mariachi band's visit (will they want tea or tequila?), and the Scottish trio must finesse the three-part kazoo symphony for Little Hospitals.

"That track is totally old-school Biffy," beams frontman Simon Neil. "Three songs in one song. It's dumb but it's really cool."

Push open a heavy interior door at this onetime Masonic temple and you enter the HQ for Biffy's forthcoming behemoth: a double-album with three titles and a two-part concept.

"Our mission statement with this record was: don't be scared of anything," says

Neil of the follow-up to 2009's *Only Revolutions*. "This is as over-the-top as we could possibly go. We've got bagpipes, kazoo, tubular bells. We also went to a huge Baptist church in Pasadena and played the organ.

MORE INFO

Title: *Opposites*
Due: January 2013
Producer: Garth Richardson
Recorded At: The Village, Los Angeles
Tracks: *Biblical*, *Stingin' Belle*, *Sounds Like Balloons*, *Victory Over The Sun*, *Black Chandelier*, *The Joke's On Us*, *Modern Magic Formula*, *Pocket*
Fascinating Fact: Once they decided on a double album, Simon Neil had the artwork for Guns N' Roses' *Use Your Illusion I and II* tattooed on his right arm to "fucking get inspired".

I wore my Norwegian black metal denim jacket and a Dark Throne T-shirt." He grins, sucking on another roll-up and taking a seat amid piles of instruments, "my wife wasn't happy when I told her."

Given the overall title *Opposites*, Biffy's sixth is the ambitious work of a band emboldened by the breakthrough success of platinum-selling *Only Revolutions*. After finishing touring last August, Neil and brothers Ben (drums) and James (bass) Johnston repaired to Scotland.

"The songs just started falling out," recalls Neil. "We had 45 by the end of last year. That's another reason for the double – it's not like we're thinking, Let's put out every song we've written cos we're that great. We genuinely think that the songs necessitate a double album."

They're four weeks shy of the finishing line. Already completed are anthemic rocker *Black Chandelier*, its buoyancy offset by dark images of "just the two of us and a cute little cup of cyanide"; *Victory Over The Sun*, in which early Neil Young gives way to Red Hot Chili Peppers-style funk-rock; and *The Joke's On Us*, a moshpit-pleasing thrash with a Southern-fried twang in the middle-eight. Then there's the jittery guitars of the new wave-y *Sounds Like Balloons*, which has room for both a harp and the lyrics that give each disc its subtitle: *The Sand At*

The Core Of Our Bones and *The Land At The End Of Our Toes*.

"The first one signifies things that built you, that impact on your decisions in life," explains Neil. "The second is about your desires and how you react to certain things."

Following the broadcast of teaser track *Stingin' Belle* on Zane Lowe's Radio 1 show in July, the first single proper is likely to be *Biblical*. It will come tricked-out with strings, a gospel choir and "nice synth stuff".

"It's a huge song," notes Neil, "hopefully people will lose their minds when they hear it. It's just a beautiful pop song."

Biffy hope to "reach the peak of what we can do" on their double-disc epic. With the inclusion of "beautiful pop", mariachi bands, kazoos, harps and bagpipes, no one can accuse them of not putting everything they've got into the effort. CRAIG McLEAN