

MUSIC

Blues rockers channel vaudeville for show

Who: He's My Brother, She's My Sister
What: Folksy blues meets glam rock
When: 9:30 p.m. Tuesday; doors open at 8:30
Where: Pink Garter Theatre
How much: \$10
Web: HesMyBrotherShesMySister.com, PinkGarterTheatre.com

By Lindsay Wood

He's My Brother, She's My Sister, the five-person band featuring a brother-sister duo and tap-dancing percussionist, is back to play the Pink Garter Theatre for the second time since it took its vaudeville-style show on the road in 2010.

Doors open at 8:30 p.m., and music is set for 9:30 p.m.

While the group has been called "party music for coyotes drunk on champagne" sung by "voices that mingle like glamour in the desert" by LA Weekly, Rob and Rachel Kolar say they get their unique sound from a variety of musical styles.

Each member of the LA band brings a different influence. Rob Kolar, on vocals and guitar, has long been part of the music scene with his other band, Lemon Sun. Aaron Robinson, also on guitar, is a classically trained guitarist and musical director for folk artist Linda Perhacs. Oliver Newell, upright bass, was the principle bassist for Kona Symphony and grew up two-stepping in Austin, Texas. Rachel Kolar, on vocals and tambourine, and Lauren Brown, the full-body percussionist, are trained in theater. The mash-up makes for a "rambunctious" live performance that transcends the boundaries of contemporary folk music.

"We've kind of mixed and melded different genres," Rob



Los Angeles band He's My Brother, She's My Sister will play its rambunctious folk mash-ups at 9:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Pink Garter Theatre. Tickets cost \$10 at the door.

Kolar said, "so you'll have a taste of the darker side of country, a raw blues romp, some folkier, more earnest love songs, a throwback to '50s rockabilly and rock n' roll and more modern psychedelic and innovative Indie nuances."

On the other hand, he said, all the songs have a pop sensibility.

"At least in the songwriting, because we are very influenced by the Beatles, the Mamas and the Papas and Neil Young and a lot of classic artists. So we hold on to that classic song-

writing format, trying to have a classic chorus that people can sing along to."

The band's first full-length album, "Nobody Dances in this Town," will be released Oct. 9 by Park the Van Records. The record will have a punk element to it, Rachel Kolar said, thanks to producer Thom Monahan, whose background is mostly in punk and garage rock.

To promote the new record, HMBSMS will cram into a van and tour the country for seven weeks — its longest tour yet. As siblings do, there is usually

"one good fight every tour," Rob Kolar said.

"I think in the beginning we used to fight a lot more than we did now," Rachel Kolar said. "You want to be peaceful, but because brothers and sisters usually fight, you end up doing it anyway. It's such tight quarters, so if you start fighting, you change the mood of this very small space, and that's why it's so important on the road to stay positive, stay open and kind and helpful."

"It's a beautiful experience sharing your music," she said.

"Performing can be totally incredible, but it's also a lot of hard work."

It's hard work doing tribal dances, animal noises and, for Rob Kolar, taking a single tequila shot before each show, too. HMBSMS like to kick around before each show, warming up their vocals cords in the form of woos, shhhsss and brrrrrrmmss.

"People all think we're a little nutty, if they just walk by the door," Rob Kolar said.

Then Rachel Kolar, Brown, Robinson and Newell form a circle and loosen up with some African tribal dancing backstage. Rob Kolar prefers to mellow before going live, watching and sipping.

The theatrics and glam rock-infused quality of their music is Mae West meets Sgt. Pepper. Brown — standing on a bass drum tapping out the rhythm and simultaneously crashing away on the floor tom, snare and cymbal — adds to the effect: a one woman drumming show.

"[Lauren's drumming] has all just been an evolution," Rob Kolar said. "Every tour, she's brought out a new drum. At first it was just tap and snare, then she added the floor tom and then a kick drum. Now she's added a crash. We're all really impressed with the way she's taken it on and owns it."

Owning their individuality doesn't seem to be a problem for any member of the group, which is part of the reason it has a growing indie following.

After the tour, the band plans to take a holiday break, prepare more songs for its next album, pick out a RV and turn it into a "home on wheels" by the next tour, set to start in January.

Whiskey Mornin' plans rocking dance party Friday

Who: Whiskey Mornin'
What: Live music
When: 9 p.m. Friday
Where: Town Square Tavern
How much: \$5
Web: 307Live.com

By Lindsay Wood

Expect anything from Notorious B.I.G. to Alabama from the band Whiskey Mornin', including the urge to dance.

The band expects to whip up the best dance party this side of the pass at its Town Square Tavern show.

"We do covers and mash-ups," lead guitarist Leif Routman said. "We take songs and do them our own way."

The five-man band is made up of Taylor Upton on vocals and rhythm guitar, Zach Byars on mandolin and vocals, Ronnie Daveler on bass, Routman (the "melt your face guy") on guitar and Jacob Gampe on percussion.

It all started in August 2011 when the band was asked to get together to play at a friend's wedding.

"The sound clicked, and we just



Rock band Whiskey Mornin' — Ronnie Daveler, Leif Routman, Zach Byars, Justin Gampe and Taylor Upton — pulls from its mix of rock, funk, country-western and hip-hop for its 9 p.m. show Friday at Town Square Tavern.

kept on rocking," Routman said. "It has taken off far beyond our imagination."

A mix of rock, funk, country-western swing, hip-hop and more rock and

funk makes up the band's sound and inspiration. All of the band's members have been playing for 10 years or more. Byars is also a trained ballroom dancer. Not only do the Whiskey

Mornin' guys sing and dance, but they have "ninja improv skills" according to Routman.

"Everyone can relate to us," Gampe said.

Pumping out a beat that everyone can dance to has evolved into twice weekly gigs around town, noise complaints and gondola ride jam sessions.

So why Whiskey Mornin'? "Crazy" Tom Haigh, DJ at KMTN, a close friend of the players, named the band and it stuck.

"It might be a whiskey morning for some people if we get [the show] right," Gampe said.

A full light show, lasers, drink specials and giveaways fill out the night's festivities, all put together by 307 Live. The agency will be raffling a Budweiser town cruiser and a Snow King Resort winter ski pass. Get a raffle ticket with every Budweiser beer purchase up to the night of the show. Ticket holders must be present to win.

"It's going to be all friendly faces," Routman said. "This is going to be the best dancing party this fall, so bring your dancing shoes."