

Maps & Atlases Talks to Patch Before Playing Raue

Shiraz Dada of Maps & Atlases talks about their new record and upcoming show at the Raue Center.

By [Jonathan White](#) | [Email the author](#) | May 11, 2011 6:00am



Credit Josh Goleman

This Friday the stage will be set at the [Raue Center for the Arts](#) for a performance by experimental Chicago rock band Maps & Atlases—the foursome of extremely distinguished personalities which have given birth to song structures not as basic as your usual rock instrumentation.

M&A delivers a musical ambiance based on rock with influences drawn from classical, jazz, punk, folk and even pop.

The roots of Maps and Atlases can be described as a utilization of complex time signatures the are interwoven and placed into each melodious, intricate tune. Constantly exploring and navigating new musical fields to pursue, the group continues to hold true to their origins but also contains a well maintained pop-orientated style.

M&A is composed of founding members Dave Davison (guitar/vocals), Erin Elders (guitar), Shiraz Dada (bass) and Chris Hainey (drums). Dada, the only member that calls Chicago home, phoned Crystal Lake Patch to give us some insight on the bands' upcoming show at the Raue, themselves, their new LP record and future endeavors.

Is this your first time playing at the Raue?

Yes, we actually weren't even aware they had shows going on up there. But we're all definitely excited.

Ever come out to any other suburbs?

Yeah, we've played a lot of shows in the suburbs. As far as Aurora, DeKalb, West Dundee, Libertyville and really all over the area. We haven't gotten out to the suburbs lately, but we definitely play all over.

How has touring with your first LP record, Perch Patchwork, differed from the work you've done with your earlier EPs?

It's actually not that different. Our show has evolved a little bit more. We're doing different stuff, using different instrumentation live. Other than that, it's been pretty much the same getting out there and playing a lot of the same places. We're seeing some new people, which is cool and also see some old friends on the road. We still play with a lot of cool bands, old friends and new friends. It's pretty much been the same, slight differences, but touring is touring.

To those that aren't familiar with your work, how would you describe "who Maps & Atlases is"?

Well, that's always a difficult question to answer. It's kind of hard to sum it up but I'll definitely try my best. I guess I would say we're sort of like technical pop music. Pop music but with a big technical side.

You guys have been booked to play Chicago's Lollapalooza this August, how excited are you about that?

We're really really excited! We've always been a fan of the festival and it's definitely always been a dream of ours to play such a cool festival, to share the stage with so many amazing bands from all over the country. We're really excited and really looking forward to it.

Ever played any large scale festivals before?

We've played a lot of festivals but I don't think we've ever played anything of that size. We've been to SXSW five times, and that's sort of a different feel. We've played local festivals like Wicker Park Fest and we played North Coast Fest last year and that was really cool. We've done festivals but I don't think we've done anything that has anything like the history that Lollapalooza has of breaking so many bands and also having consistent really great talent every year.

How would say your style has changed from your previous EPs to what you've done with your first LP record and what do you think has been your main influences from then until now?

I guess our style may have slightly changed to some people. Really, I think we've all focused what our talents are. People have gone to say "oh, we're not as technical anymore," but actually our newest record is definitely by far the most technical thing we've ever done. It has more time changes, time signature changes, key changes and

tempo changes than anything we've ever done combined. I guess it might sound different to people, but I think we were really just trying to make a record that had a catchy-poppy feel while maintaining our fascination and interest in technical music. We've just always loved pop music. Our influences are always evolving, hearing new stuff and old stuff and rediscovering things that we once liked and are now again appreciating. As you get older you can look back on stuff you listened to in the past and you can listen to it again with new ears as you hear new music and experience life. Things sound different as you get older. We've gone back to lots of stuff like Talking Heads and David Bowie. We love tons of bands like the Beatles obviously, and then a lot of newer stuff that we're really getting into these days. It's fun to expand and try new things. Some of my favorite bands are always pulling surprises and I'm fascinated by that and I think that's really what makes music fun.

Maps & Atlases will play Friday, May 13, at the Raue Center in downtown Crystal Lake.

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