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Concert Review:

ORGANIC FUNK, SINTIA & THE SUN KINGS

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A concert at an Indian restaurant? Really?

Really...

Of course, it probably doesn't actually matter WHERE the venue is, but if one thing is certain it's that Toronto rock quartet Organic Funk – fresh off the release of their new LP *Speak Now* – are prepared to make sure you have a good time while you're there.

Opening up the night for this foursome of funk, was Toronto songstress-fronted Sintia and The Sun Kings. Sintia – the little bundle of spunk that she is (and it emanates off of her) – [made a recent appearance in our episode of WIRED with Toronto rockers Broken Bricks](#), so it was a pleasure to see her well-refined vocal depth put to good use once again.

Next up: the main event.

Front man Michael Costantini rips some serious lead guitar when he plays with The Sun Kings, but when Organic Funk hit the stage he truly lets loose... and he has the vocal range to back that up in spades – hitting somewhere from a low/mid tenor to an high upper alto when he stretches out his wildly controlled falsetto. Bassist/vocalist Jim O'Brien holds his own amongst all this rocking, echoing his own share of wicked raucous riffs and vocal utterances.

Keyboardist Alan Zemaitis wasn't able to make it for this particular show, but thankfully newly-added drummer Shawn brought his ivory-hammering roommate Joel on board – who has an awesome Steve Winwood-style approach to his keys – and what resulted was sheer funk rock at its finest (especially for a supposed total six-hours of practice together).

With a double-set running nearly two hours in length, the boys of Organic Funk definitely put on a solid night of music; with a slew of original tunes that ooze of influences as readily evident as classic rock kings Zeppelin, Dylan and Hendrix, to contemporary acts like Maroon 5; and then into covers of The Beatles and Sublime, to even a handful of covers of covers (Joe Cocker's rendition of The Beatles' "With A Little Help From My Friends" and Wide Mouth Mason's heavier funk rock version of Stevie Wonder's "Superstition" were solid standouts in the night).

Notably though, the recordings don't truly give the band justice for just how tight their live set really is – it would be VERYYYY interesting to see how animated or interactive their show could become if they weren't restricted to a stage about the size of a dorm room closet. Their Jamiroquai influence also isn't even really that apparent until you see them live... especially so when they start to play a Jamiroquai cover live immediately after this realization dawns on you...

If you'll take anything away from this review though – see them live if ever given the opportunity: they have a way of playing off each other that really emotes to the crowd. You can tell just how much fun they're having, and they want you to join in too. They'll leave you grooving in your shoes all night long, you'll be singing along with their covers, and you just might get an invite to a party from some random attractive Europeans that were enticed to enter the venue from off the street because they heard some funky tunes as they happened to be walking by. What, that doesn't happen to everybody? Well, clearly you were at the wrong concert that night...

RYAN STEPHENSON PRICE