

The Harmonic Synapsys presents

UPBEAT

Oral history of Indian rock

Get to know Parikrama, one of the first English rock bands in the country which made Indian rock music what it is today.

Pop Music: Evolution & Language Barrier-Free

How pop music is becoming more universal regardless of the language.



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Letter From The Editor

Hello readers! first of all, we'd like to thank you for your overwhelming & endless support. We won't be where we are without you. And because of that, as our way of extending our heartfelt gratitude, we curated the best & most relevant content in music just for you. We hope to fill your minds with anything you need to know about music. From all of us at UPBEAT Magazine, happy reading!

Sincerely yours,
Rindika Hmar
Editor-In-Chief

A Smooth Crossover

Andy Cross, Staff Writer

With so many artists trying to stand out in the music industry, only a few ones can do so successfully. It takes a lot of guts to break out of the mold that fans have known them for. Along with these calculated risks are decisions that can make or break their career.

Two of the biggest artists who crossed over from their roots to pop music are Paramore & Taylor Swift. Now the band HEXER follows the lead by successfully crossing over from their pop rock roots to dance pop.

HEXER has released two full-length albums and one EP in the past. All of these were certified chart-toppers. Andrea Seville plays the keyboard. Joe Manning plays the drums. Kyle Berkin plays the guitar. Anne Faulkerson takes on with the songwriting & plays the guitar as well. What sets them apart from others is their astounding vocals.

Some of their best singles are "Leave Me Lonely", "Alone", "Shaking" & "Sun Down". Their latest single "Don't Forget" has an addictive electro dance pop rhythm that will surely make you dance on your feet.



We sat down with the members of HEXER band for this special interview. Get to know their story & their hopes for their group's future. All the quotes in this interview are edited to fit the editorial standards of UPBEAT.

Can you tell us the journey of transitioning from pop rock to dance pop?

Anne: Well...it wasn't an easy one though. We had to think a lot about it. We need to give our fans something new to offer.

Andrea: I think the idea of having a dance pop song came about when we were listening to Last Thing On My Mind by Steps. That song was released more than 20 years ago and we thought of coming up with a song with the same vibe.

Joe: It's something new for me, I swear. I don't listen to dance pop songs unless it is stripped down. But then we decided to go for it.



What was your inspiration for writing Don't Forget?

Kyle: The lyrics came from a poem I wrote some ten years ago. It was seven stanzas & Anne accidentally read it from my journal. She liked it & offered to change the whole poem to a song. I gave her the right.

Anne: I put Kyle's name and mine as the songwriters. I love the whole thought of his poem. It's romantic, heartbreakingly beautiful. As a way of honoring his work, we posted the poem version of Don't Forget on our official Instagram page.

Kyle: Some of the stanzas were used as verses & bridge. The chorus is Anne's original work.



Don't Forget marks your first dance pop song. Was the choreography hard to execute?

Andrea: (laughs) Absolutely yes!

Kyle: It helps that we know each other since high school. I was part of the theater guild & it had some dancing in almost every performance. Andrea & Anne were part of the cheerleading team.

Joe: And I am the non-dancer among us. (laughs)

Anne: Joe had lots of bruises during practice but he still pulled off every step like a pro.

What are the challenges in transitioning from pop rock to dance pop?

Kyle: The big change. We have to make our music sound more upbeat & happy.

Anne: We had to shorten the lyrics. The song itself needs to be shortened as well.

Andrea: I know our fans are still there to support us, but we're kinda worried on how they would react to this at first. We still received overwhelming support after the track was released.

Joe: We don't get to play instruments for the first time. But it's all worth the risk.





Any message to your fans?

Joe: Thank you for supporting Don't Forget. We're number 1 on music charts!

Kyle: We have an upcoming EP soon. We're working on it & please support us.

Andrea: There's more dance pop music to come.

Anne: We're writing more songs so please stay tuned. Don't Forget is now available on Spotify, Deezer, iTunes, Pandora & Tidal.

A photograph of two musicians silhouetted against a vibrant orange and yellow sunset sky. The musician on the left is a man with long hair, leaning forward and playing a guitar. The musician on the right is a woman with long, dark, curly hair, also leaning forward and playing a guitar. The horizon shows a calm sea or beach.

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Pop Music: Evolution & Language Barrier-Free

Music is universal. It connects us to other people in magical ways that we don't understand. It gives us room to express ourselves in more ways than one. For so long, it has been a form of art & entertainment. It grew into a lucrative business in the past century, when talent was heavily recognized & money was made out of launching pop stars.

Emergence of pop music

Pop music was born in the United States and the United Kingdom in the 1950s. With its infectious beat & easy to remember lyrics, pop music quickly gained traction to the masses. The common structure of a pop song is verse-refrain-chorus-bridge. Verses & refrains are often repeated in the second half of the song.

The hook of the song is usually found in the chorus; a series of phrases repeated with the same melody to make the song more impactful. Choruses & melodies are repeated to create consistency within the whole song. The length of pop music varies. The shortest being 2 and a half minutes while the longest being 5 minutes. Choruses are the catchiest part of the song. The sound of pop music is derived from urban, dance, Latin & rock & roll. All these influences are mixed & matched in a song that it creates a steady flow when you listen to it.

Music as a business

Music has grown into a booming business since then. Record labels slowly emerged to cater people with talent & potential. The management grooms them to be their best selves & make an image out of them that should be projected to the public. Once famous, these stars are put in a pedestal. They perform songs & generate money for them & the record label. Money that's earned from album sales, tours & merchandise of the artist is split between the label & the artist. Fees for product endorsement goes to the artist.





Evolution of pop music

Over the years, pop music has evolved greatly into several types. Pop ballads are pop songs with sad lyrics. It is characterized by mid-tempo beats. Dance pop is dance music that's both playable on radio & on music players. In the 1960s-1970s, pop music were primarily produced by playing instruments such as drums, keyboards & guitars. This changed in the 1980s when music was recorded using electronic instruments. This began a new movement for pop music called "New Wave".

From there, a whole new genre of music suddenly branched out. There's Eurodance, a kind of dance music characterized by slick beats & originated from Europe. There's reggaeton, an upbeat sound that takes its roots from Latin pop. There's EDM, short for electronic dance music, that dominates the music industry right now.

Pop music by country

While United States & United Kingdom sets the tone of pop culture in the world, several countries have taken the world by storm with their own brand of music. It casually intertwines with the world through the internet. The two of the most common musical genres by country is Latin pop and Korean pop. Latin pop is basically the kind of

music originating in Spanish-speaking countries such as South America & Spain. It's known for its slick grooves & thumping beats. Korean pop or K-pop is not one to be underestimated either. It successfully burst into the global scene in 2009. It is dominated by all-boy & all-girl sing & dance bands. The sound is heavily influenced by the West, but Korea improvises it by incorporating sharply executed dance routines in their songs. It just almost 20 years, K-pop has amassed its own fan base in most countries of the world.

Streaming media

The power of streaming media is a force to be reckoned with. Radio airplay mattered heavily in the past. It still matters, but it is overshadowed by the streaming media. Music streaming services such as Spotify, Tidal, Deezer, iTunes & Pandora play a huge role in solidifying the status of a pop star. Labels & artists earn a decent amount of revenue through it.

Language free

There's a lot to thank the internet for when it comes to music nowadays. We can enjoy a huge variation of pop music in any language & appreciate it as a whole. Pop music is slowly becoming free of language barrier. Translations are always available at any time of the day.



UPBEAT

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