

# **Red Hot Chilli Pipers**

Biography - October 2008

*"The Red Hot Chilli Pipers are sassy, sexy and hugely entertaining. They are enormously talented musicians who are so skilled they make it all look effortless. This album stirs the blood and will enliven any party."*

- Lorraine Kelly

*"Bag Rocks! The Red Hot Chilli Pipers are great live performers with passion and enthusiasm that has captivated the world - great ambassadors for Scotland. I'm a fan!"*

- The Duke of Argyll

*"It's a unique musical experience"*

- Max Clifford

Since they performed with The Darkness on T in the Park's legendary Main Stage in 2004 and walked away with the top prize on UK primetime TV talent show, 'When Will I Be Famous' in 2007, the Red Hot Chilli Pipers haven't stopped for a breath, other than to inflate their bagpipes!

Taking their signature 'bag rock' to the masses, The Chilli's have fast become a global phenomenon, rocking far flung shores from Bangkok to New York and everywhere in between.

As well as embarking on more international adventures, 2008 has also seen the band record a brand new live DVD and album entitled BLAST! (released on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2008 on REL Records) The Chillis have also been honing their stage performance with the addition of brand new elements which will leave fans desperate for more and cement their reputation as one of the most exciting live acts around.

Achieving platinum sales in Scotland, the Chilli's debut album, 'Bagrock To The Masses' has sold over 50,000 copies so far (this the highest from any act on a Scottish label in 2007) and received plays from the likes of Chris Evans (Radio 2), Chris Moyles (Radio 1) and Bruce Dickinson on his 'Masters of Rock' show (Radio 2).

Featuring the classic Red Hot Chilli Pipers sound - a fusion of traditional pipe tunes and contemporary anthems - 'Bagrock' includes the likes of 'Clocks' by Coldplay, Queen's 'We Will Rock You' and a rock medley of Deep Purple's 'Smoke On The Water' and AC/DC's 'Thunderstruck'. 'Flower of Scotland' and 'The Hills of Argyll' get a look in too, Chilli style of course!

Responsible for the phenomenon of bag rock are the Chilli's founding member and musical director Stuart Cassells, who as well as rocking all over the world in recent years, was the

recipient of the BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year in 2005 and the first person to gain a degree in bagpipes from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.

Joining Stuart and proving that three pipers are always better than one, are Grade 1 pipers Kevin MacDonald and Willie Armstrong. Twice world champion snare drummer Steven Graham and Malcolm McEwan make up the band's percussion section with back up from rock 'n' roll drummer Steven Black.

Completing the line up are the youngest Chilli and new kid on the block Chris Russell on keyboards and Gregor James (otherwise known as The G-Man) on guitar. Known for his funky riffs as well as a passion for all things electro, the G-Man spices things up by adding his own unique twist to the Red Hot Chilli Pipers' live shows.

This year alone the Red Hot Chilli Pipers have performed to capacity crowds at Bercy Arena, Paris; HebCeltFest, Stornoway; The Wickerman Festival, Dumfries; L'orient Interceltique Festival in Breton and Loopallu Festival in Ullapool and with appearances in Dubai, USA, Canada, Germany and France already in the diary, 2009 is set for even bigger helpings of Chilli Piper magic!

To become a fan of the Red Hot Chilli Pipers, log onto

[www.myspace.com/chillipipers](http://www.myspace.com/chillipipers)

**To find out more about the Red Hot Chilli Pipers, log on to:**

[www.redhotchillipipers.co.uk](http://www.redhotchillipipers.co.uk)

For further media information and images, please contact:

**Aarti Joshi:**

[aartij79@googlemail.com](mailto:aartij79@googlemail.com) / 07974 978830 (print and online)

**Lisa MacDonald:**

[lisa\\_macdonald@btconnect.com](mailto:lisa_macdonald@btconnect.com) / 07836 211012 (broadcast)