

After six releases in less than a decade and hundreds of concerts to literally hundreds of thousands, The Kry had earned their right to relax, spend time with the family, and focus on the finer things. And a lesser band would have been content to sit on their musical laurels, settle into their day jobs and let their rock and roll dreams simply fade away.

But, for Jean-Luc and Yves Lajoie, the transplanted Quebecois brothers at the heart of The Kry, something deeper beckoned—compelled—them to press on. Facing the horrific events of the past year, and reflecting on the lives they encountered while touring, the Lajoie's were struck, more than ever before, by a sense their own inadequacy and frailty. And yet, in the midst of this overwhelming awareness of personal and national need they were reminded again and again: It was in their frailty that they were useful to God. And so The Kry became convinced that both as musicians and ministers their best work was ahead of them. And like Esther long ago, The Kry felt the assurance of this word: For such a time as this have I called thee.

Driven by this sense of both calling and urgency, The Kry have produced *Undone*, their seventh project (and first for Metro One), an album of powerful rock anthems and tender reflections of worship that represents the pinnacle of their recording career.

Musically, *Undone* finds the band leaping forward in their craft as songwriters and studio players; there's a maturity to the sound and songs here that is woefully missing in much current rock music. The disc offers an exciting blend of melodic, pop-tinged rock that is reminiscent of Coldplay, Oasis and DMB without ever being derivative. The album's tracks, like their lyrical inspirations, reveal real musical growth in their insistent, instantly hummable melodies and their chiming, guitar-driven, taut arrangements.

"I think we've been able explore a little bit more with this record, and at the same time we've tried to keep it simple and uncluttered—to make the record more accessible," says Jean Luc. "I grew up listening to bands like The Beatles and U2 and at a young age they taught me the power of a catchy melody—I was moved by the power of a hook to capture the soul—and I have tried to emulate that captivity to the melodic in my songwriting. I hope and pray that a good melody is the most used tool in my toolbox."

The band's new line-up also contributed to the maturation of the band's sound.

"God brought us together with young and promising producer, Elijah Thomson," Jean Luc happily recounts, "and Elijah helped us get to some very fresh new sounds. And, obviously, the two new members of The Kry helped forge a new edge to our sound—as well as contributing to a very pleasurable recording experience. Danny Donnelly has brought a lot of maturity to the guitar department with his skilful yet unadorned playing; David Roy is a young bass player from Montreal Canada, and he added his unique touch to the new material, especially "Lead me on" and "Only the Love of God". We are very blessed to have both of these men on The Kry bandwagon."

However exciting the growth of their sound, it is The Kry's maturing sense of mission that dominates this record. Undone is bound up the juxtaposition of the band members' greater sense of need—a healthy sense of their own frailty and brokenness before God and the world around them—and their deepening sense of calling and urgency, the notion that they are useful and lovely to God despite their weakness—perhaps because of it.

This is played out in a delicate and sophisticated lyrical balance that celebrates the paradox of the Gospel's insistence that "lest a seed fall into the ground and die, it cannot bear fruit."

For Lajoie, this tension is liberating, both as an artist and an evangelist.

"Our sense of being undone forces us to identify with the person we are speaking to and, as Paul said, to become 'all things to all men that we might win some.' When we see our own sense of brokenness and of frailty we realize that we must totally and solely trust in God—who alone has the power to keep us and strengthen us—to use us. When we remember that we are just sinners saved by grace, we can have compassion towards our fellow man. When we see ourselves as 'Undone' we rely on God to make us whole, to be our all in all, but as long as we think we can stand on our own, as long as we trust in our self-togetherness, we keep ourselves from experiencing all that God can do and wants to do in and through us! St. Paul expresses this in 2 Cor 4:7: 'But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.'"

Out of this conviction Lajoie wrote "Only the Love of God", a stark, simple confession of utter dependence and celebration of God's mercy and grace that finds the title repeated over a Beatlesque melody. It's the kind of song that one can imagine burrowing deep into the listener's soul—happily combining the joyfully subversive power of pop melody and the simplicity of the Good News.

It's this pairing of infectious song and sincere focus on God that the band repeats over and over again on Undone. More than half the songs on the disc are in some level "worshipful" if not headed directly into the growing lexicon of contemporary worship standards. "Beautiful," "Spark Up the Flame," "Glorious" and "You're My Everything" all will quickly become concert sing-along favorites, and reveal the disc's unswervingly God-focused approach.

"I have been inspired by the new wind of worship that has come out of Great Britain," Jean-Luc continues. "A lot of these songs have inspired me to move forward in my own songwriting. I have tried not to borrow too much but have tried to allow God to guide my pen on the paper, flowing right from His heart to mine. At the same time, I am reminded of the words of Solomon: there is nothing new under the sun."

And for The Kry, it this context of humility and worship that gives direct rise to their evangelistic urgency. The disc opens with "Here", an impressionistic rendering of a classic prayer of consecration:

*"One life to live/and so soon will pass away/so don't let another day/wave you goodbye/before you bow
and pray/here."*

“All Over Again” is the most directly evangelistic song on Undone, a direct plea to the listener to embrace the message of the cross and “start all over again.”

“With the events of 9/11,” reflects Jean-Luc, “my heart, like many others, has felt a growing sense of urgency to offer our lost and dying world hope—through our music and in our everyday lives. More than ever I understand that everything we do, in the studio, on stage and off the stage, must be clothed with a heavenly perspective—in a sense of the Kingdom of God. We must live out our faith passionately, give God our very best every moment of this short life and let ourselves be used by Him to make an impact and a difference in the here and now.”

In “Maybe,” another cunningly memorable melody further fires Undone with a declaration of the hope of the believer in the face of our frailty. Its refrain of “maybe tonight ... we’ll be in Heaven” holds the uncertainty of our daily living directly against the light of certainty the gospel brings.

Not that our sense of frailty or focus on the hope of the world to come makes Undone into Christian “wimp rock.” Indeed, the disc shows evidence aplenty that the band can be combative—even feisty—with those in our culture who are less than honest in their spiritual quests. On “Why?” the band posits a hypothetical conversation with a stubborn agnostic who, according to Jean-Luc “basically tries to persuade Himself (Or herself) that God doesn’t exist, that there is no right or wrong, that there is no absolute truth, that anything goes when in their conscience they know different.” In the face of such defiance, the band takes an equally combative stance:

“When you say that there are many roads/when you say that anything goes/when you say there’s no way to know/well I don’t believe you.”

The heart of Undone, however, is not culture war, but a yearning for reconciliation—with our neighbors as well as in a closer communion with God—expressing both a deep humility before the grace of God and a bold yearning to be an agent of the Kingdom.

“I would say that my favorite track is “Spark up the flame,” says Jean Luc. “I think it expresses my desire that my faith and the expression of my faith through music remain genuine, vibrant, passionate and real. We actually thought of calling the album Real, because that is the kind of Christians we want to be. We want to be real with God, since we cannot hide anything, and, real with one another for the Bible says that we should love one another with sincerity. 1 Peter 1:22-23 says ‘Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart.’

“In the end, however, we decided that the album needed to be focused on our need before both God and our fellow man. Philippians 1:6 expresses well the other side of the album title; The reality that God is not finished with us and, that deep down in our hearts, we will never be entirely satisfied, until we are completely transformed into His likeness!”