

Club of Suns releases new single, "Nova"



By [Martin Myers](#)

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The Johannesburg-based band, Club of Suns, is proving that it was worth the wait with the eagerly awaited release of their single, "Nova".

Club of Suns is a band making music in the digital age. The band explores unique sounds and approaches to their music, not limited by genre and location. They have been described as delivering a cerebral experience.

Says Matt Levings, frontman of the band: "'Nova' was inspired by a state of isolation and distance from the world (like a supernova). It started as a simple and spacey synth-wave sound on the microKORG."

When asked about the song, Levings confesses: "We have all made so many sacrifices in recent years. To step into a studio and create something together like "Nova", makes that all worthwhile. It's brutally honest writing and ties in with themes that we regularly visit.

I spoke to Levings last week.

■ ***The new decade means:***

The unknown, the unexplored. In the face of discomfort, there is potential for great growth.

🎱 ***Fame is about:***

We're all made of the same stuff. Fame is a construct.



Matt Levings - © Wesley Poon

🎱 ***Retirement will happen when:***

When they pull the plug. Does the mind ever stop creating?

🎱 ***I don't do:***

Neckties (the corporate noose) and bread mould.

🎱 ***What does music mean to you?***

Music helps me understand the world around me. It's a mood stabiliser without having to take a pill.

🎱 ***My music is about:***

Dancing through a cataclysm.

▣ ***Where do you go for inspiration to create?***

Film, literature, other music, dreams and socio-political events seem to ignite reactions in us.

▣ ***What is the most enjoyable aspect of your work?***

I get to create and bring expression to abstract thought.

▣ ***The song you must do in every show?***

The new one, "Nova".

▣ ***Any funny moments on stage:***

Accidental mic drops, running over to finish the song on Izak's mic.



Club of Suns on the music video set of "Nova" - © Jade Holing

▣ ***What is your most treasured possession?***

I have a very strong bond with my record collection.

▣ ***It's your round, what are you drinking?***

A cup of tea sounds nice!

▣ ***Dream gig to do:***

Glastonbury; one day (you need to have goals).

▣ ***Nicknames:***

Maddy, Maddy Moo, Mayhoo.

▣ ***If you were not a musician, what would you do?***

Work in film.

▣ ***Who would play you in a Hollywood blockbuster and why?***

Cillian Murphy kinda looks like me; must be the cheekbones.

▣ ***What makes you stand out?***

As a band, we're all quiet off-stage and we change into something else when we're making the music. Personally, that awkward, quirky weirdness.



Club of Suns (LTR Stefan von Buddenbrock, Matt Levings, Izak Buys - © Wesley Poon)

▣ ***Pick five words to describe yourself:***

Weird, introverted, calm, daydreamer, intuitive.

▣ ***Five favourite SA albums:***

Shadowclub - *Guns and Money*

Zebra & Giraffe - *Collected Memories*

Nakhane Toure - *Brave Confession*

Freshlyground - *Nomvula*

The Parlotones - *Dragonflies and Astronauts*

■ ***What song changed your life?***

I feel weird saying this, but “Crawling” by Linkin Park made me feel things I didn’t know I could feel (even though I was a child). It was the first album I bought as a kid and soon after I started finding my creative expression.

■ ***Who do you love?***

My dog Avalon. My love extends to many people who have touched my life, but I have inner circles and strong bonds with my wife.

■ ***What is your favourite word?***

Sublime, but the deep, the meaning of it - like being drawn to a tidal wave or black hole.

■ ***Your greatest achievement:***

My greatest achievement will always be a work in progress. A life well-lived, full of experiences, love and creative expression. As a band, it would have to be making “Nova”, and the relationships we’ve made along the way.



Matt Levings - © Jade Holing

■ ***Favourite fashion garment:***

Denim jacket.

■ ***Give us some real proper slang and what it means:***

“Bitch the pot” - pour the tea. I don’t know if this is real, but we use it in my home.

■ ***What do you complain about most often?***

I hate not having structure and routine.

■ ***Happiness is:***

A warm gun (to quote The Beatles).

■ ***On stage, I tend to?***

Become the 'spaceman'.

■ ***Where would you like to be right now?***

International Space Station or studio.

■ ***Do you do charity work and, if you do, what do you do?***

The band has played many shows to raise money for individuals and organisations in need. We help where we can. The film company I work for and when filming in my own capacity, I try to do work with NGOs and organisations in need.

■ ***Wishes and dreams:***

I do wish humanity would stop, take a look around and see the wonder of it all. And I want to keep making music as long as we can and to the best of our ability.

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