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Entertainment

Milkshake band a sweet treat for young Baysox fans

By MATT ARMES Staff Writer
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Kids and baseball fans of all ages will have plenty to sing about during an upcoming Baysox game, not just the Baysox.

Global kids' rock band Milkshake, a Baltimore-based band led by singer Lisa Mathews and guitarist Mikel Gehl, will perform before the Baysox host the Binghamton Mets Saturday, Aug. 16.

"To us, nothing goes together better than baseball and kids' rock 'n' roll," said Gehl. "We want to put on a concert that will be as exciting as the Baysox have been all year!"

The six-member high-energy group, with deep roots in the Baltimore-Washington area, has been featured in movies and prime-time television, and has garnered critical praise during its eight-year career.

Mathews said the band is excited about the opportunity not only to perform for the Baysox faithful but also about its baseball stadium debut.

"We've got about 14 to 15 songs lined up, because a Milkshake concert is incredibly interactive," she explained.

"We try to get the kids involved with some dancing and some of the music-making, and everyone just has a wonderful time."

She added that during the performance of the group's song "Baseball," kids would have the chance to pitch to Mathews while she stands on the third-base dugout.

Mathews and Gehl originally founded the band and pursued the idea of singing kids songs in a rock band.

"That's when I had my little girl and my world changed. Mikel and I wanted to sing about counting on our fingers, just part of the pallet of what it is to be a kid," she added.

"I always trace it back to 2002 when we released our first CD, 'Happy Songs' " Mathews said.

Since then, the band has released two more studio albums and plans to release its first DVD Oct. 9, which features Baltimore Orioles' great Cal Ripken introducing the music video for the song "Baseball."

According to Keith Baulsir, an account executive for Starbridge Media Group, the company that represents the band, Gehl demonstrated a thorough knowledge of the Baysox happenings this year during a recent performance at Bowie Library.

"We chatted after the show and he went through the roster and asked about a number of different players," Baulsir said. "It's almost like this concert is their dream venue."

Mathews added that the band would look for similar venues next summer as part of a potential minor league baseball tour.

Last weekend, the band made a tour stop in Denver, Colo., before hitting the East Coast again with stops in Connecticut and Martha's Vineyard.

For its scheduled performance Aug. 16, the band will play from 5 to 6 p.m., sign autographs on inflatable beach-ball baseballs, and later perform "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" during the seventh-inning stretch. A fireworks show will follow the game at the stadium.

"The band is really excited," said Mathews. "It's so cool to have such a fun opportunity to bring our music and fan experience to such a family-friendly venue."

The kid-centric and family-oriented rock band has created an unparalleled fan experience for parents, children, and music and sports fans of all ages. Milkshake has been featured on Noggin, PBS, XM Radio, and has won critical praise in the Washington Post, Baltimore Sun, Time magazine, and the Los Angeles Times.

Tickets for the concert and game are \$10; children under 3 get in free. Tickets are available at www.baysox.com or by calling 301-805-6000.

For band information, visit www.milkshakemusic.com.