

PRESS AND COMMENTARIES 2

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Band promises one song a week in aid of a free Burma

>> The Portraits seek inspiration from fans to deliver every Friday

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A BAND based in Hammersmith have set themselves the challenge of writing and releasing a new song every Friday for the rest of the year, while campaigning for human rights in Burma.

Former teachers Lorraine Reilly and Jeremy Millington of The Portraits, have vowed to make new music each week, inspired by suggestions from their fans.

Singer and guitarist Lorraine said: "As songwriters we always write about ourselves and find our own inspiration but we decided to let our fan base come up with ideas.

"We have a very good, strong fanbase but I can't believe how many emails we've received."

The Portraits, who live in Holly Road, are building a following after their performances at the



■ **PLEA TO FANS:** Lorraine and Jeremy want their fans to suggest ideas for songs and donate to the Burma Campaign

Photo by Andrew Gray WL20121763_3.JPG

Glastonbury Festival last year.

One of the more bizarre requests they have received to date is to write a song about a fan's dream, which involved the fan eating a full English breakfast with David Bowie, seated at a table on Hammersmith Bridge.

Lorraine and Jeremy met as art and music teachers respectively in

1995 while working for a secondary school in the Isle of Wight, and then left to travel.

Ten years later, The Portraits were born, blending instruments such as cello, violin and piano to create their unique sound.

The duo hope their fans will donate to the Burma Campaign

when downloading the tracks from their Facebook page.

The organisation campaigns for human rights and democracy in the military junta-ruled country.

Lorraine said: "Jeremy's mum, Diana, goes out every year to a monastery in Mandalay, Burma where they teach 6,000 children.

"The monastery also has a medical centre and an English library, which is a very worthy cause our supporters can give to."

The couple work for the cause in London where they regularly meet Burmese people and exiles, and the country's opposition icon, Aung San Suu Kyi, is the band's hero.

Lorraine said: "We wrote a song about her and were told recently that she has the CD and plays it regularly, which is incredible."

The Portraits performed on the Green Future Fields stage at Glastonbury which draws awareness to human rights issues and donated a third of all CD sales to the monastery.

They were crowned best international artist by US station Radio Crystal Blue last year and should release their fourth album in July.

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