

JEROME KUGAN and DAVID KNIGHT merge cool and intensity to lay their scene together in the live circuit.

In a lot of ways, KL works on the friendships that you make. Take San Jose-based singer-songwriter David Knight. Friends with actor-director Gavin Yap from their student years. Who introduced him to actress-comedienne Joanne Kam Poh Poh on her US holiday. Who introduced him to a live acoustic show producer in KL. Who shares an apartment with singer-songwriter Jerome Kugan. Who got in touch with Knight on MySpace. Next thing you know, Knight is in KL and collaborating with Kugan on a series of acclaimed club gigs, before going back to California and writing his album titled *Mandala*, inspired by his four-week journey from the Rainforest Music Festival in Kuching to the singer-songwriter circuit of KL. "Being exposed to a completely different place, and being immersed in a completely different scene, that was really inspiring," says Knight.

One year later, Knight has returned – with more friends and fans than before, judging by his MySpace and Facebook pages – ready to take *Mandala* to the stage and better prepared to further his music affair with Kugan. From

their last efforts as a duo, these two solo performers have learned a lot from each another. Kugan, who released his folksy debut album *Songs For A Shadow* independently last year, sees Knight as someone "filled with energy... I'm a pretty laidback person, so what I got from him was his energy and an affinity towards music." Knight, who released the electro-fuelled *Mandala* in three parts from late-2008 to early-2009, describes Kugan as someone who is "about the song, the words and the story... There are no frills with him. My approach was different; I was using a sampler, effects pedals and other things to enhance the music. But I have since tried to focus more on the words, the story. That was Jerome who helped me with that."

Knight is making the rounds here again from now until November, and Kugan will once more collaborate on a couple of shows that will showcase a lot of their new material. Singer-songwriter Yuna is likely to make a guest appearance as well. Go to www.myspace.com/knightdavidl and www.myspace.com/jkugan for details. 

