

Brothers say new fame won't change them

Friday, Mar. 2 By Eric Kambach



Rixeyville brothers Tristan and Rory Shields receive comments on their performance Monday on NBC's 'The Voice' program. The Shields Brothers perform 7 to 12 p.m., Friday, at Lord Fairfax Community College in Warrenton. The performance is free for LFCC students with ID, and \$5 for everyone else.

It's been a crazy few weeks for Tristan and Rory Shields.

After season 2 of NBC's "The Voice" premiered on Superbowl Sunday, the brothers and their fans waited anxiously for three weeks before their blind audition aired.

And when it did, it got the music world's attention.

After they sang Billy Idol's "Dancing With Myself," singer and TV personality Bret Michaels tweeted how proud he was of them.

"We've worked with Pete Evick," said Tristan. "He's the lead guitarist for the Bret Michaels Band, but he's helped us learn the more technical parts of the business, like recording and mixing. Having Bret Michaels tweet about us is pretty cool."

Other critics applauded the Shields Brothers, noting how they brought some much needed fun and entertainment to the stage.

Rolling Stone magazine said "Thank God for the Shields Brothers." Even Carson Daly, who hosts "The Voice," wrote in his blog about how the Shields Brothers are a good example of balancing talent with entertainment in music. And on top of all that, a fully recorded version of "Dancing With Myself," the Billy Idol tune they sang Monday evening to win Cee Lo Green's favor, is currently on sale on iTunes.

But for the young duo, the transition from living on their parents' farm in Rixeyville and playing in local bars to becoming nationally known has gone to their heads.

"It's been crazy," said Tristan over the phone. "L.A.'s been great, and it really hasn't

changed us in any way. We were really able to stay the same guys we were before coming on the show.”

But despite their trying to remain calm, they couldn’t contain themselves when Cee Lo turned in his chair to recruit them to his team.

“We’re definitely in his cannon,” said Rory. “He’s who we want to be with. When he turned around, I thought, ‘holy crap, he’s wearing my jacket.’”

“When Cee Lo turned around, we just went crazy,” Tristan said. “We really admire Cee Lo as an artist, and think that he’s a really good fit for us, and we’re a good fit for him.”

For the brothers, winning Cee Lo over means they have a great balance of energy and vocal harmony with each other when they perform. That balance will be a tremendous strength as the move on in the competition.

“We’re also about rock ‘n’ roll,” said Tristan, who considers their genre a unique quality that could help them in the competition.

“We’re hearing a lot of pop and more ‘serious’ stuff, but we want to show that people still love rock ‘n’ roll,” he said.

Rory, who plays drums, also claims versatility as a strength, having to change his way of performing by moving front and center next to his brother.

“For me, I’m more used to sitting behind the drums while I sing,” he said. “It was definitely different for me to move up front, but it was still a lot of fun.”

The brothers will be looking forward to battling Cee Lo’s 11 other recruits through four weeks of duet battles, during which each team captain must cut his/her team by half.

In the meantime, though, they’re enjoying some welcoming time back home in Rixeyville, and will be returning to their roots at a performance at Lord Fairfax Community College tonight.