Just for the Funk of it

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There were quite a good number of positive feedbacks, but the most interesting ones were the negative ones."

Saif adds, "I remember a renowned record label company suggesting the name *Simin* and not GrooveTrap as it will surely sell more! Our musician friends on the other hand were really excited and cheered us all the way. They truly believed in our music!" The band's debut performance at Kozmo lounge in 2007 included Emran, Anabil, Pritom and Omar as guest artists. With no fixed genre, they received good responses from the crowd with their performances from Dire Straits, Michael Jackson, Seal, and Shania Twain.

March 2008 saw a versatile addition to the group when Jasper joined, bringing along with him his expertise in Hip Hop, Rap and the Blues. "I met Jasper through DJ Rafa," Simin recalls, "Then Saif and I performed as guest vocals in Jasper and Shanto's show, popularly known as JnS. We then approached him to sing in some of our numbers for the album. Saif instantly had a good feeling about adding him, obviously taken aback by his vocal grits and bluesy styles. But as he came in after almost 80% of the work in the album was done, you'll hear only 3 of his songs in it."

"Working with GT is like working with myself," Jasper says, with a smile. "I did not have to leave out anything, be it old-school Soul, Hip-Hop, Rock, or RnB. It's all here! All three of us come from very different genres of music. For Saif, it was Hard Rock / Rock-&-Roll, for Simin it was a mix of a little bit of everything and for me it was Hip-Hop / R&B. The mutual genre that we all loved was Funk. GrooveTrap want their audiences to experience GrooveTrap, feel the musical sensation rather than just listening to it." The young performer is working to get his solo album out soon. With influences like James brown, Michael Buble, old-school Soul, Hip-Hop and R&B, his eastern classical expertise as well. He was also a producer in the mixed album *Kata Tarer Bera*. GT's live shows were instant hits. But they did go through quite a bit of hassle knocking at doors.

"INEX in 2007 sounded a little reluctant when I asked them for a show at X Lounge." says Saif, "But I got introduced to Trilogy's Duke bhai who basically helped us come into the limelight, getting us shows in IC club, Le Saigon, and the high profile clubs where we started performing for Expats." He also added that with continuous support and love from their new manager Shammu bhai, GT is striving to give more of their own flavor to the music scene. An interesting addition to their portfolio was the ETV phone-o-live last month where they performed on live TV for their fans on popular requests. Saif adds, "After our debut album, we released another one of our compositions *The Nightshift* in the mixed album RONG, last year. Our next album is due around June. We are almost done working on it and tried our best to include the ingredients our listener expects after our last one."

A sneak preview of their unreleased track N*ei Obhiman* gave me a funky peek at what's coming up this June. Here's hoping to run into more of their groovy traps. Just for the Funk of It!

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