

Kaizers break barriers



If evidence were needed of Norway's ability to produce a uniquely brilliant band, Kaizers Orchestra provide it in spades. Boasting the charisma of The Hives combined with the live force of Rammstein, they have managed to notch up multi-platinum sales at home and have festival promoters across Europe beating a path to their door.

Formed in 1999, this six-piece act puts on a show which makes musical use of 1.2 tonnes of mechanical junk, a specially tuned pump organ and a set of oil drums provided specially by the company Statoil in one of the most unusual sponsorship deals popular music has yet seen.

Having failed to attract major labels early on, they teamed up with leading Norwegian manager Eivind Brydøy and set about booking their own gigs and releasing their first two albums through Oslo label Farnen. "For

us it was a good foundation to have done things on our own," says guitarist Geir Zahl.

Singing in a dialect even some Norwegians do not understand, the band originally set their sights no further than making it at home, but after playing at Eurosonic in 2003, they soon realised that their appeal transcended any language barriers, as European festival bookings began to mushroom. In fact their schedule was so tight they had to turn down an offer to play Glastonbury. "People don't need to understand all the lyrics to get into a band," says Zahl.

Having decided to set up their own Kaizer Records for the Norwegian market, the band recently signed a licensing worldwide licensing deal with Universal Germany and will release their third album in Norway, GSA, Benelux and Denmark on August 15.