

From left:
Sébastien,
Carlos, David
and Urs

"SIMON COWELL'S OUR MANAGER

– BUT WE ONLY SEE HIM TWICE A YEAR!"

IL DIVO'S
LATEST ALBUM
THE PROMISE
IS IN SHOPS
NOW

Operatic boy band Il Divo will be flattering your flatscreen this Christmas. Here they reveal the truth about TV's Mr Nasty and which member is a secret heavy metal fan!

THE X FACTOR

Sat 6, see on-screen Sky guide for details, ITV1 (103)

With a new album in the shops, a spot on variety show *For One Night Only* and a performance on *The X Factor*, it's a busy time

for Il Divo. Simon Cowell brought Spaniard Carlos Marin, American David Miller, Swiss Urs Bühler and French Sébastien Izambard together in 2004 after a two-year global search. "It was a massive experiment," tenor David explains. "There were language barriers and no template for what we were trying to do."

Their good looks, voices and mix of classical and pop saw them perform in front of a combined audience of 1.5million across 30 countries on their first two tours, while their first three albums have sold 30million in total. Their latest, *The Promise*, ranges from Leonard

Cohen's *Hallelujah* to Abba's *The Winner Takes it All*. We caught up with the lads in London...

Tell us about the new album?

Urs: We took two years between this one and the last. We wanted to branch out a bit.

What's your favourite song on it?

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"As a teenager
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.....

Sébastien: I love our version of *Hallelujah* – it's very subtle.

What's it like working with Simon?

Sébastien: He's very busy so we only see him about twice a year – when we're deciding on the songs for our album, then in the middle or at the end of recording.

What's a typical Il Divo day?

Urs: It depends if we're promoting or on tour. If we're promoting we can have 16-hour days.
David: On tour, it's just the shows. But they fill you with adrenaline, so you don't get to sleep till 3am.

Which country has the best audiences?

David: Every one is different. In Japan, they don't

make loads of noise, they just wave glow sticks. In Spain, they sing along, scream and go crazy.

Urs: We always have a great audience in the UK.

Do you ever fall out?

Sébastien: Sometimes. Like every family or group of friends, you can't agree on everything.

What are you listening to at the moment?

Sébastien: The Script and Coldplay.

Urs: A Scandinavian goth-metal band called Nightwish. As a teenager I loved listening to Judas Priest and Iron Maiden.

David: I'm into techno and dance music.

What would you be doing if you weren't in Il Divo?

Carlos: Teaching music or doing musical theatre.

Sébastien: Composing – that's my hobby.

David: Conducting or directing operas.

Urs: I used to want to be a truck driver!

Love this? Watch these!

● *Don't Forget the Lyrics Christmas Special*, see Sky guide, Sky1/HD (106/170) ● *For One Night Only Special*, see Sky guide, ITV1 (103)