Chuck Biggs, Features Editor

35, said in an interview. "I'm a man who's been working for a long time to bring Jews and Arabs closer together."

Most progressive rockers faded over the past ten years, but Rush have just kept at it, developing an almost industrial rock sound as they focus on the musical landscape of the world.

"I sing in both Arabic and Hebrew," Shukri said. "I believe in the power of music. I sing for peace and understanding." His songs are powerful and emotionally charged, captivating audiences in both Arabic and Hebrew.

"I want to keep singing because I believe that music can break down barriers and bring people together," Shukri said. "I've been singing against Israeli rule in the occupied territories. My lifestyle certainly says a lot about my national identity."

The most striking tune on the new record, Presto, is a song called The Pass. It, together with a string quartet, produced the haunting melody in a parable about the glories of life and the struggle for meaning in a world of spreading mechanization. The lyrics are stark but vivid, and speaker's voice is a poetic and rigorous figure.

"That's certainly the song I'd like to drive semantic wedges into," Neary said. "It's a kind of philosophical tract as well, so that people may have a chance to think for themselves, to stop and start thinking that there's nothing normal or predictable in life.

For Bryan Adams, the estimate was plain still in demand. "It's sad that there are illusions," he said. "People have a right to live a better life; illusions are just used as a tool to keep the masses in line.

"All I want to do is to be powerful enough to be able to communicate what you're trying to say well enough, so that people may understand," Neary said. "It's the way you say things that counts, not the facts or the truth."

Neary said: "We always pour our hearts into our music. It's a way of expressing our faith and our aspirations."

Shukri says he never gets involved in politics or the Palestinian uprising. "I believe in the power of music to bring people together," he said. "I'm a musician, not a politician." Appear Peltric and Arap Israelite to feel and sing as a musical entity.

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Shukri brings Arabs, Israelis, together with songs...