

Hard-rocking Nazareth releases its 10th album

By NICK CHARLES

The hard rock of Scotland was featured in the Nazareth style Saturday at Detroit's Cobo Hall.

The band has just released its 10th album, "Malice in Wonderland," on A&M records.

Nazareth is: lead vocalist Dan McCafferty, guitarist Manny Charlton, bassist Pete Agnew, drummer Darrell Sweet and Zal Cleminson on guitars and synthesizers.

Cleminson, who wrote the album's second single, "Hearts Grown Cold," used to play with a band called Tear Gas and The Alex Harvey Band before joining Nazareth on its ninth album "No Mean City."

"Detroit, I enjoy it a lot," said Cleminson in a telephone interview, as he was getting ready to play for a sold-out audience in Lexington, Ky.

ONE OF THE songs from the album receiving a lot of air play (along with the album's first single "Holiday") is "Big Boy," which Cleminson wrote. "The song is well-liked by the listening public, but what exactly is it about?"

"That's a good question," Cleminson said. "I don't really know. It's just a series of images and scenarios that you catch a glimpse of in rock 'n' roll."

Cleminson, who started playing guitar at 15, contributed to nine of the al-

bum's 10 songs.

"I think I find music easier, but I get more pleasure from finishing a lyric, from writing the written word."

The album was produced by Jeff Baxter, former member of the Doobie Brothers and Steely Dan.

"I find Jeff a nice guy to work with and an excellent technician and musician," Cleminson said.

"I think the combination of influences is what could make the whole thing work."

Cleminson discussed the differences between European and American audiences and concerts.

"EUROPE HAS a much more immediate audience because of the small theater-size venues. You have more of a theatrical contract with your audience. They can see more and get more involved individually."

"In America you have to use different kinds of effects to, shall we say, 'stun' the audience."

The title to the album, "Malice in Wonderland," was actually picked after the cover for the album.

"We tried to pick something that would go with the sleeve because we liked the picture so much. Drummer Darrell Sweet thought of the title," Cleminson said.

Cleminson listed persons he admires and enjoys listening to, which goes

from Frank Zappa to Stravinsky.

"I like Jeff Beck as a guitar player and as a writer. I've always liked Bob Dylan to some extent."

Cleminson even is fond of some new wave bands.

"I think the Police are doing some great things. I like what the new wave bands are trying to do. I was influenced very much by new wave. I was living in the middle of it in London," he said.

"When the Alex Harvey Band broke up, the punk thing had just started. Since then it's matured and gotten a little more sophisticated and now it's called new wave."

"I write songs which seem to be suited to Dan, his voice, what he wants to sing about and the things he believes in. We seem to have a mutual understanding as far as some writing is concerned."

Nazareth is becoming as popular now as it was with its album, "Hair of the Dog," which contained the hit "Love Hurts."

With the addition of Cleminson, the band will probably soar to new commercial heights.



Nazareth is Darrel Sweet (left), Manny Charlton, Dan McCafferty, Pete Agnew and Zal Cleminson.



Friday music

Jayne Carter provides the musical entertainment at the TGIF parties hosted in Dewey's in the Michigan Inn in Southfield. Ms. Carter is a pop singer who plays the guitar. She will be performing 5:30-7:30 p.m. starting Friday in Dewey's. The Michigan Inn is at 16400 J.L. Hudson Drive, next to the Northland Theatre.

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