



Cinecyde band members include Jim Olenki (from left) Rodger Wescott, Gary Reichel and Chris Girard.

Cinecyde doesn't crave stardom

By Larry O'Connor
staff writer

So you want to be a rock'n'roll star? Well, that's not why Gary Reichel of Cinecyde took to writing songs.

"I think most bands take a pathetic attitude toward success," said Reichel, lead singer of the Detroit area band. "Success to them means stardom and stardom, for the most part, is pathetic."

For Reichel and Cinecyde, the issue has never been how fast they can get signed by a major record label or how many shows can they cram into a week. Writing the best songs possible has always been first and foremost.

Artistic integrity is hardly an uncharted platform. Many local or national bands consider their music is first and foremost. But when the record company man comes calling, those ideals start falling.

Cinecyde appears to pay more than lip service. The band has been together for 10 years, a testament in itself to commitment.

Yet the group plays very few shows. One can count on one hand

the number of gigs Cinecyde has performed this year.

Yet with the state of playing dates, Cinecyde manages to harness a tightness that bands playing four times a week would be hard to match.

On stage, there is no posing or gesturing. The music is presented in a straightforward, high-energy manner.

THE SOUND may be either melodic or hard edged. One couldn't classify Cinecyde as a prototype punk band or a leather-clad hard rock outfit. The answer lies somewhere in between.

Cinecyde will release a new album, "Who Goes There?" in September. Also the four-member group is featured on the Reichel-produced "Folk Songs from the Twilight Zone."

Don't expect any full-fledged pandering to record executives or program directors with the new products.

Reichel said he doesn't like the music industry, doesn't believe in it. His is not a cynical point of view, he contends, but more one of reality.

And he believes that attitude is

what has kept the band together for 10 years.

"There was a real push in the mid-70s. The attitude was 'If you don't like it, do it yourself,'" Reichel said. "There was an American underground if you will. That was inspiring to see little bands in out-of-the-way places, making records on their own."

Cinecyde formed in 1978, at the height of the punk movement. The group took on that raw, guttural sound in the beginning.

The line-up has stayed mainly the same. Bassist Chris Girard joined the group in 1982. Other members include Jim Olenki on guitar and Rodger Wescott of Farmington Hills on drums.

BUT OVER the course of 10 years, the sound has changed somewhat. Song topics haven't. Pain, politics and life is what Cinecyde still sings about.

Cinecyde's first single in 1978 was "Gutless Radio." Today, there's self-explanatory songs like "Chemical Warfare," "Confederate Flag" and "Industrial Gray."

"I feel like it is something I have thought through," said Reichel, who

is the chief songwriter for the group. "I'm not going to just sing, 'ban the bomb,' because it's a bigger issue than that."

"Songs are like cartoons. They're not really an answer. They're meant to push in the right direction and make you think about it."

In times when apartheid in South Africa is in the thing to write about, Cinecyde has a song like "Confederate Flag." The song questions the use of a symbol of slavery, which is still used by state governments in this country.

Where anti-nuke stances are commonplace in rock'n'roll circles, Cinecyde sings about chemical warfare, which can have equally devastating effects.

Those two songs, however, won't be featured on the upcoming album. Reichel said they will be included on another album to be released next year.

In more than 10 years of writing and performing, the energy is still there.

"I doesn't strike me as relevant," he said about the band's longevity. "Being together for 10 years, people tend to latch on to it. But it's always new to us. It keeps evolving."

MUSIC NOTES

Submitted for your approval, an album that encompasses both originality and vitality. An album that is for the people, by the people of the Detroit music scene.

You're entering another dimension in sight and sound. You've just entered "Folk Songs from the Twilight Zone."

Yes, it's here. An album that has the Rod Sterling seal of approval. "Folk Songs from the Twilight Zone" features this area's top local musical acts — both known and unknown.

The disc, produced by Gary Reichel, was officially launched with a three-band blowout at Psyche's Lounge in Ham Town. Cinecyde, Shooting Club and 3-D Invisibles filled the bill.

And those who arrived early were privy to a short but sweet set by Tree Blue Heat.

Also on the long-awaited Tremor release are Orange Roughies, Volebeats, Sleep, Va-Voom, Hysteria, Narcolects, Junk Monkeys, Jerry Vile and Bootsy X.

Already, cuts from "Folk Songs from the Twilight Zone" have received airplay on CJAM-FM, WDET-FM, WDTR-FM and WORB-FM.

And, geez, if that wasn't enough local music to keep you smiling, we have Scott Campbell's latest project in our hands.

"Detroit Music Scene Vol. 1" features Beer on the Penguin, Before or After, Scott Campbell, The Difference, Funhouse, Hippodrome, The Hypnotics, Anton James, Jugglers And Thieves and See Dick Run.

An album release concert marathon will take place at 9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 19, at Saint Andrew's Hall in Detroit. Nine bands will perform, including Treehouse Beggars of Toronto, Beer on the Penguin, See Dick Run, Before or After, Funhouse, Scott Campbell, Hippodrome and Jugglers and Thieves. Tickets are \$5.

But one of the more eye-catching summertime releases has to be Karen Monster's scintillating EP. Apparently, our queen of scream has spared no expense in producing her latest effort. She has a full-page advertisement in Fun Magazine along with smaller ads in the Metro Times and national rock and roll digest Spin magazine promoting it.

Monster wouldn't give monetary figures for the production of the five-song EP except to say "it cost a piggy bank and a half."

Featured on the slick production are five of Monster's top tunes, such as "I Hate Love," "Get Off My Train," "Diggin' My Own Grave," "Second Thoughts" and "I Got It Right." (What?! No "I Want a Pony!")

Monster does little to shed her rough rocker image.

"It's clean enough to be commercial and dirty enough to satisfy me," she said.

The main purpose of the EP wasn't to spur interest from record labels, Monster said.

"If the big labels want it, they can find me. It's easy," she said. "I did it more for me."

Well, well now. That's the attitude. Anyhow, Monster plans to tour the East Coast collegiate circuit in late September and early October in support of the album.

RADIO COMPLAINT NO. 1,267: Your Street Beats writer nearly flipped his car coming home on I-94 from Ann Arbor. Drunk? No. He was in new music nirvana. Featured on WLZ-FM's "Wheels in Motion" was nearly a half-hour of The Smiths. Blue nice, it's also said.

Shows like "Wheels in Motion" and WRIF-FM's "Sonic Rendezvous" allow us to be fed new music by the spoonful. But why does this type of music have to be segregated to late Sunday nights?

Forget that The Smiths can sell out the Fox Theatre and The Cure or DePeche Mode could easily pack Joe Louis Arena. Late Sunday nights is where they belong, right next to the preachers and talk show host geeks.

Just give us that old time rock and roll. You know, the kind of music that soothes the soul and program directors play into the ground. So, please, continue to relive those carefree days by continually replaying the music of your generation.

Because, thanks to you, we certainly don't know the music of our generation. Unless we stay up late on Sunday nights.

— Larry O'Connor

LOCAL

Here are the top 10 songs receiving airplay on "Detroit Music Scene," which airs from 4-5 p.m. Sundays and from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesdays.

1. "Bowie Medley," Twiggy Barbus.
2. "I Got a Right," Karen Monster.
3. "Be With You," Randy Brewer.
4. "Lonely One," The Difference.
5. "Problems," The Reputations.
6. "Accident," Scott Campbell.
7. "They Were So Young," See Dick Run.
8. "Walk the Beach," Treehouse Beggars.
9. "Houston Tardy," The Strand.
10. "Released Again," Jugglers and Thieves.

COUNTRY

Here are the top 10 songs receiving airplay on WWWW-FM 106.7, a country and western station in Detroit.

1. "Baby Blue," George Strait.
2. "If You Change Your Mind," Rosanne Cash.
3. "Out of Sight and on My Mind," Billy Joe Royal.
4. "Talkin' to the Wrong Man," Michael Martin Murphy.
5. "Set 'Em Up Joe," Vern Gossie.
6. "Givers and Takers," Schuyler Knobloch & Bickhardt.
7. "The Wanderer," Eddie Rabbit.
8. "Don't We All Have the Right," Ricky Van Shelton.
9. "Don't Close Your Eyes," Keith Whitley.
10. "The Gift," The McCarters.

COLLEGE

Here are the top 10 songs receiving airplay on WHFR-FM 89.3, the campus station of Henry Ford Community College.

1. "People Have the Power," Patti Smith.
2. "Cold Metal," Iggy Pop.
3. "Soviet Snow," Shona Lalag.
4. "Christine," House of Love.
5. "After 99," Big Audio Dynamite.
6. "Go Back," Shrek Back.
7. "Peckabee," Slonzie and the Banishes.
8. "Lullaby," Book of Love.
9. "Welcome," Beatnick Beats.
10. "Broken Heart," Red Flag.

IN CONCERT

• THE NEIGHBORHOODS

The Neighborhoods, a band from Boston, will perform tonight at the Blind Pig, 205 S. First, Ann Arbor. For more information, call 996-9555.

• FRANK ALLISON & THE ODD SOX

Frank Allison & The Odd Sox will perform Wednesday, Aug. 17, at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For more information, call 998-2747.

• MUSIC MARATHON

Detroit Music Scene Album Release Concert Marathon will run from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. Friday, Aug. 19, at Saint Andrew's Hall in Detroit. Featured will be Scott Campbell. See

Dick Run, Funhouse, Beer on the Penguin, Hippodrome, Before or After, Jugglers and Thieves, The Hypnotics and Treehouse Beggars from Toronto. Tickets are \$5. For more information, call 961-MELT.

3-D Invisibles will perform Friday, Aug. 19, at the Hamtramck Pub, 2048 Caniff, off I-75. For more information, call 365-9760.

• JOHNNY ALLEN

Johnny Allen and the Appeal will perform Friday and Saturday, Aug. 19-20, at Griff's Grill, 49 E. Saginaw, Pontiac. For more information, call 334-9292.

• SEE DICK RUN

See Dick Run will perform with special guests, Hippodrome, Saturday, Aug. 20, at Lil's 21, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. For more information, call 875-6555.

• BEER ON THE PENGUIN

Beer on the Penguin will perform on Saturday, Aug. 20, at Hamtramck Pub, 2048 Caniff, off I-75. For more information, call 365-9760.

• BRYAN FERRY

Bryan Ferry will perform at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 24, at Meadow Brook Music Festival in Rochester. Tickets are \$29 pavilion and \$15 lawn. For more information, call 377-2010.

• ONLY CHILD

Rampage recording artists Only Child will perform a special free concert on Thursday, Aug. 25, at The Ritz, 1801 E. Grand, near Nine Mile Road, Roseville. The hard rock group is touring nationally to promote the single, "A Place in Your Heart." All artist royalties and net profits due Rampage Records will be donated to Childhelp U.S.A., a non-profit organization fighting child abuse through prevention, research and treatment. The organization is trying to raise \$750,000 to help operate a national child abuse hotline. The organization needs to raise the money by Sept. 1. A booth will be set up at The Ritz to offer information

REVIEWS

LEAD ME ON

— Amy Grant



Needless to say, the Jim and Tammy Bakkers and the Rev. Jimmy Swaggart have left more than a few people a trifle cynical about the area of organized religion.

Amid the chaos, Amy Grant's faith is still strong as "Lead Me On" (A&M) leads us to believe.

Not that the talented Christian singer glosses over the recent events, she addresses them up front in "What About Love."

Sings Grant emphatically: "Something's wrong in heaven tonight/You can almost hear them crying/Angels to the left, angels to the right/singing, What about love?"

Grant is one of few Christian artists who has been able to garner mass appeal. One reason is that her music is very contemporary and very fresh. Whether it is the burning-with-life title track "Lead Me On" or the soft piano piece "If These Walls Could Speak," Grant is an exceptional talent in any music circle. Perhaps another reason is that

Grant doesn't claim to sing from higher ground. Her message, if you can call it that, is not how one should live their life, but rather she reflects on her own. She expresses doubts, as the number "Faithless Heart" portrays. But there's also a feeling of commitment here that is very uplifting.

The imagery she uses in many of her songs is strong. Along with being a first-rate performer, Grant certainly earns kudos in the area of songwriting.

There's a recurring theme in many of her songs. And that's a reaffirmation of what she believes in. In the rather upbeat stylish pop number "All Right," we hear things like "year's of knocking on heaven's door, I've learned it's going to be all right."

In "Say Once More," Grant concludes, "Let me say once more, I love you."

— Larry O'Connor

A BELL IS A CUP . . .

— Wire

WIRE • A BELL IS A CUP



Once upon a music career, Wire was considered a very hip band.

They were the forerunners of the guitar and keyboard sound, which Simple Minds have stolen . . . or used effectively, although Wire was never as bombastic.

Being that as it may, they never really garnered more than a strong cult following. So, in the time-honored tradition of cult bands, they broke up in the early 1980s. Now here we are, 1988, the year of the repeat (just check movie listings) and what do we have? Yes, Wire has re-formed.

A testament to how much music has progressed (?!?) since then is that this new Wire LP, the strangely titled, "A Bell Is a Cup Until It Is Struck" (Enigma), still only achieves cult status.

Of course, what else do you expect of an album with Eric. Ed on the cover.

Any old Wire fans will be happy with this album as it offers no radical change in sound from previous LPs.

The songs are still built with layers of guitar and keyboard sound effects with Colin Newman's dispassionate understated vocals. The lyrics are like in-jokes. They probably mean a lot to somebody, but generally go over people's heads.

Some would even venture to say they're boringly pretentious. Witness the following: "Dressed plate demon shrinks/Bread drunk dead drinks/Stretch clubs models box/Draw skin black shocks."

Naturally, you now completely understand why a lyric sheet is thoughtfully provided. The music is somewhat reminiscent of Bowie's low period, so that can't be all bad.

If the abstract lyrics don't upset you, then a little hard working listening to this LP should pay off. Of course, the only commercial radio station that might play this around here is WDET's "Dimensions Show" at 10 p.m. on Sundays.

— Cormac Wright

I KNOW RAY HARMAN

— Something Happens!

Sometimes it pays to scour the import bins at your local record outlet. You never know what you might find.

Not too many people in this country know of the Irish band Something Happens! — yet. The Dublin-based band has an upcoming album, produced by Tommy Ramone, in the fall and is featured on a soundtrack for the movie, "The Courier."

For the time being, though, we'll have to settle for Something Happens! live EP, "I Know Ray Harman" (Virgin).

Something Happens! is one of a "big list" of bands from Ireland poised to make it big. They're in line with Hothouse Flowers, In Yna Nua and Cactus World News. Of course, the biggest pitfall for many an Irish band is the ever-dreadful "Next Us" tag.

Sorry, the only thing Something Happens! has in common with Rono and Co. is an Irish passport. If anything, there's a natural urge here to



compare this four-man outfit to R.E.M. as murky sounding guitars prevail.

At the same time, though, Something Happens! manages to bring a spark to their music that even the boys from Athens, Ga., would be hard pressed to duplicate. And you can understand Something Happens! lyrics.

For instance the laud rocker, "Seven Days Till 4 a.m.," moves along cautiously. Further added to the intensity is the volcanic guitar bursts that punctuate the number. Indeed, this group lives up to its name. You wait for something to happen.

Yet Something Happens! real strength is in the melodic guitar department. "Promised" is simple in that regard. But a combination of Tom Dunne's vocals and an endless stream of melodic guitar make this a gem.

— Larry O'Connor