

Just jammin'

'Sunday Night' finds its musical niche

By Larry O'Connor
staff writer

The set on "Sunday Night" doesn't include a rake or a garden hose. But the spirit of the garage jam session is certainly there.

Since its debut in October on NBC, the hour-long music show (seen at 1 a.m. on Channel 4) has found a niche in terms of diversity. Tired of watching Billy Idol shadow box his way through a song or listening to an artist endlessly plug their album on a talk show? "Sunday Night" might be the answer.

Musical acts — both established and new — are featured along with archive film clips of great artists. Also, there's a first-rate house band that includes Marcus Miller and Hiram Bullock on guitar, Omar Hakim on drums and Philippe Salsse on keyboards.

But one of the most interesting parts of the show is when musicians from different styles get together. Past segments have included Paul Simon producing Eddie Palmieri and James Taylor performing Latin American music with Milton Nascimento.

Future possibilities are endless. Jools Holland of the British pop band Squeeze and co-host of the show thinks of the ultimate musical pairings.

"I would like to get Ray Charles with someone you wouldn't expect like, hmmm... Talking Heads," said Holland in a telephone interview from New York. "Now that would be a good show."

EVAN HOLLAND and fellow host, David Sanborn, are from different musical perspectives. Sanborn is a highly acclaimed saxophonist, working with the likes of David Bowie, James Brown, The Eagles, Bruce Springsteen and Roger Waters of Pink Floyd.

Holland is keyboardist with the often-praised British pop band, Squeeze. The TV show, though, is quite different than the musical one.

"There's a lot of sex and violence on television," he said. "So, obviously



Co-hosts of "Sunday Night," which debuted in October on NBC and is seen at 1 a.m. on WDIV-TV, Channel 4, are Jools Holland (left) and David Sanborn.

I'm getting my share of sex and violence."

The young English popstar is no stranger to television. In fact, he fronted a music show, "The Tube," in Great Britain.

"The Tube" offered quite an array of musical acts. Then again, that might be attributed to Holland's vast tastes that include jazz, boogie-woogie, ska and funk.

Both Holland and Sanborn have been involved in selecting guests for "Sunday Night." The philosophy is fairly basic: avoid the commercial flash-in-the-pan and stick with those who've had a profound impact on contemporary music.

"There's a uniformed pattern in

the people we've chosen to be on the show in that they're all good at what they do," Holland said. "We're not just going to have someone on just because they have the sexiest bottom at the moment."

As musicians, Holland and Sanborn have an added insight to the business. Holland said it can be an advantage with guests.

BUT HE quickly adds that he's careful things don't become too technical for those who think a chord is something you plug into a wall and fret is what you do at tax time.

The spontaneity of live music is what Holland believes will sell the show in the long run. Already,

there's been plenty of that since October.

"When we had Squeeze on (Sunday night), Hiram Bullock filled in at rhythm guitar," he said. "He put some things into the music we hadn't heard before. That lifted the whole thing and made it exciting."

By taking a different path, Holland is expecting overall success. Though he does expect the "Sunday Night" audience to grow steadily.

"I think people are underestimating it," he said. "People have more intelligence and a broader scope of taste than they are given credit for."

Hopefully, we're introducing them to people they've never heard of before."



Strange Bedfellows includes Jim Blaschak (bass), husband Jim Blaschak (guitar), Sean Scannel (keyboards) and Syndi Bauer (drums) along with singers Missy Gibson and Beth Yates.

BAND MEMBERS are busily polishing up a six-song cassette that will be released within the next couple of months. The tape is being recorded at Tempemill Studios in Livonia. Plans include to play live at least twice a month and concentrate on writing material.

For Jim and Jan Blaschak, who live in Southfield, Strange Bedfellows is a dream come true. But — they met while waiting for a SEMTA bus at Wayne State and played a few sets of cover bands before All That Came about.

Still, the band line. The sound is a sweet mix of past and present.

"I grew up listening to the music of the 1960s and 1970s," Yates said. "I see our band having roots in that. But I feel we're polished in a new music sound."

"Being in a band is like being married anyway," she said. "You either make it or you don't."

Strange Bedfellows: It's a 'marriage' made in music

By Larry O'Connor
staff writer

To the naked eye, there might not be a street big enough to cover Strange Bedfellows.

The makeup of the six-member band has more potential for divisions than General Motors. First, there is the married couple of Jan and Jim Blaschak. Then there are the two guys and the four women.

But the real powder keg is trying to pair two lead singers, while Strange Bedfellows attempted in a beginning. Exports like that usually end in an exchange of gunfire.

But animosity between singers Missy Gibson and Beth Yates? No way, right?

"I think there was at first," said Gibson, whose charming, yet powerful voice fronts Strange Bedfellows. "I think we were threatened by one another. We weren't meant to each other or anything. One day we all sat down and sorted it out."

So, the plan is to have Gibson sing lead. Yates follows with harmonies, fronting the band on a couple of numbers. The rest of the group backs up the vocals with some polished musicianship and everyone will live happily ever after.

"It's a happy medium," said Yates, 22, of Birmingham.

EXCUSE US, Strange Bedfellows. While you're at it, there's the Middle East conflict and the troubles in Northern Ireland to solve.

Ironically, Strange Bedfellows was the end re-

REVIEWS

TRINITY SESSIONS

Cowboy Junkies

This took me by surprise. Such an innocent looking album cover masking a powerhouse of emotion. This is the second LP from the Cowboy Junkies, a Canadian band. Their first consisted mainly of cover versions of other people's songs, so this LP gives the first taste of their original work, and boy, do they do it up right!

They are introduced immediately to the haunting vocals of Margo Timmins when she sings the first song, "Mining for Gold," a cappella. Her voice is velvety smooth and lulls the listener into a melancholy trance. Upon hearing her gentleness, it is easy to miss the harsh realities of the lyrics.

On a slightly technical note, it's worth mentioning that this album was recorded in a church using only one microphone. This is particularly remarkable because of the fine quality of the sound and especially the beautiful balance of the diverse instruments used, backing vocals and, of course, bass and drums.

It's a bit like Lou Reed quips cynical.

That is certainly evident on the former leader of the Velvet Underground's latest offering, "New York." (Sire) Reed leaves no 1980s stone unturned, addressing topics such as AIDS, toxic waste, extinction of whales, Vietnam vets and Kurt Waldheim.

His picture of this decade is not a pretty one, but it's real. It's one thing to ramble in vague generalities about current times, but nothing can quite stack up to the way Mr. Reed can sum up the experience.

As the album progresses, Reed gets more wound up. He doesn't take a jab at money-grabbing politicians and racist preachers, he slays them. Friend of the liberal, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, even takes some heat along with the Pontiff on "Good Evening

NEW YORK

— Lou Reed

The Reagan Revolution is said to have left debt, homelessness and a wider gap between the rich and the poor.

Also it has left Lou Reed quite cynical.

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air of sadness with which the song is delivered, I believe her!

This sadness is the predominant mood of the entire LP. It's perfect for listening to, if you just want to wrap yourself up in self-pity, and fall into a corner with your favorite bottle of whiskey.

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— Cormac Wright

LOU REED

Mr. Waldheim." If I ran for President once and was a member of the Klan/Wouldn't you call me on it the way I call you on Farrah?"

Despite his obvious disdain for the 1980s, Reed doesn't leave without looking into the future. The bluesy "Beginning of a Great Adventure" reflects an artist who, it seems, is uncertain about his place in the world.

Aside from the lyrical content, the musicianship of Mr. Reed is excellent. His down-and-dirty guitar style rights right up there with Keith Richards at times.

The minimalist approach of Reed is stark and yet so powerful. — Larry O'Connor

Monday, January 23, 1989 O&E

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IN CONCERT

• HOLY COWS

The Holy Cows will perform on Monday, Jan. 23, at The Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. For more information, call 996-8555.

• MISSION IMPOSSIBLE

Mission Impossible will perform on Monday, Jan. 23, at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For more information, call 996-2747.

• WIPERS

The Wipers will perform on Tuesday, Jan. 24, at The Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. For more information, call 996-8533.

• BIG BOX O' NINES

Big Box O' Nines will perform on Tuesday, Jan. 24, at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For more information, call 996-2747.

• ROMANCE

Romance will perform on Wednesday, Jan. 25, at Jagger's, 3481 Elizabeth Lake Road, Pontiac. For more information, call 661-1700.

• ROOM SERVICE

Room Service will perform on Wednesday through Sunday, Jan. 25-29, at the St. Croix Lodge, Wayne Road, one block south of Wayne Road, Hamtramck. For information, call 729-2540.

• CHISEL BROS.

The Chisel Bros. will perform on Wednesday, Jan. 25, at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For more information, call 996-2747.

• HERRAZZ

Herraz and Vibratory Sound will perform on Thursday, Jan. 26, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. For more information, call 996-8555.

• FLASH BACK

Flash Back will perform on Thursday, Jan. 26, at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For more information, call 996-2747.

• KNAVES

The Knaves will perform Friday and Saturday, Jan. 27-28, at Ashley's, 8335 Telegraph, near Joy Road, Redford Township. For information, call 531-1311.

• REGULAR BOYS

Regular Boys will perform on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 27-28, at Sally's, 4735 Greenfield, north of Michigan Avenue, Dearborn. For more information, call 616-5377.

• ROBB ROY

Robb Roy will perform with special guests, New Logic, on Friday, Jan. 27, at the Hamtramck Pub, 204 Canfield, off 275. For more information, call 345-9760.

• DARK CARNIVAL

Dark Carnival will perform on Friday, Jan. 27, at Lulu's, 2120 29th, off Joe Campau, Hamtramck. For more information, call 875-5555.

• HOLDEN CANFIELD

Holden Canfield will perform on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 27-28, at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. For more information, call 334-9292.

• HEARTBEAT

Heartbeat will perform on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 27-28, at Jimmerson's, 1812 N. Main, Royal Oak. For more information, call 547-8470.

• COWBOY JUNKIES

The Cowboy Junkies will perform on Tuesday, Jan. 24, at The Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. For more information, call 996-8555.

• ANTI-FASHION

Anti-Fashion will perform along with special guests, Static Alphabet, on Friday, Jan. 27, at The Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. For more information, call 996-8555.

• SECOND SELF

Second Self will perform on Friday, Jan. 27, at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For more information, call 996-2747.

• HOME WRECKERS

The Home Wreckers, formerly Loved by the Moon, will perform on Friday, Jan. 27, at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For more information, call 996-2747.

• TREMOR REVIEW

Just Monkeys, Baby X, Frank Allison & The Moonbeams, Cockeyed, S.D. Invaders, Sleep, Volehets, Viv Akademie, The Moon Men, True Blue Hearts and Static Alphabet will all perform at the Tremor Review '89 on Saturday, Jan. 28, at Saint Andrews Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. The show begins at 8 p.m. For more information, call 991-6333.

• BLUES FESTIVAL

The Progressive Blues Band, The Butter Twins, The Alligators, Zooz and The Paybacks along with Little Junior Cannon will all perform from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, at the Hamtramck Blues Festival. Advance tickets are available at Ticketmaster outlets. Alvin's is at 5756 Cass, Detroit. For information, call 873-3355.

• THE FEW

The Few will perform on Saturday, Jan. 28, at the Hamtramck Pub, 208 S. First St., off 275. For more information, call 996-9760.

• KAREN MONSTER

Karen Monster will perform on Saturday, Jan. 28, at Lulu's, 2120 29th, off Joe Campau, Hamtramck. For more information, call 875-6555.

• BLUE FRONT PURSUADERS

The Blue Front Purusaders will perform on Saturday, Jan. 28, at The Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. For more information, call 996-8555.

• JEANNE & THE DREAMS

Jeanne & The Dreams will perform on Saturday, Jan. 28, at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For more information, call 996-2747.

• COWBOY JUNKIES

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LOCAL

Here are the top 10 songs receiving airplay on WDTR-FM's (90.9) "Detroit Music Scene," which is heard 4-5 p.m. Sundays (repeated 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays).

1. "Checking Out," Reheartments.
2. "At Hill," Colorful Trauma.
3. "Awaken at Twilight," It's Raining.
4. "I'm a Little Bit," S.P.D.
5. "I Tilted Up," The Empty Set.
6. "I'm a Little Bit," Marc Lederman.
7. "Street Lines," Oriental Spez.
8. "I'm Sick of You," Cody Jarrett.
9. "Firing Line," Bobby East.
10. "First in Line (live)," Romantics.

Here are the top 10 songs receiving airplay on WCKI-AM.

1. "Song of the South," Alabama.
2. "Spanish Eyes," Willie Nelson.
3. "That Old Wheel," Johnny Cash.
4. "Let's Get Started," We're Gonna Break My Heart," Stalker Brothers.
5. "Change of Heart," The Judds.
6. "Child in Stone," Vera Gossin.
7. "Deeper Than a Hole," Randy Travis.
8. "Sing Ditty," Dwight Yoakam.
9. "Don't Waste It on the Blues," Gene Watson.
10. "If You Ain't Lovin' (You Ain't Livin')," George Strait.

COUNTRY

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3
—Violent Femmes

The Violent Femmes use a wash tub and a couple of acoustic guitars to relay their musical message. What is there in the end is well, a wash tub and acoustic guitars.

Aside from the lyrical content, the musicianship of Mr. Reed is excellent. His down-and-dirty guitar style rights right up there with Keith Richards at times.

The minimalist approach of Reed is stark and yet so powerful. — Larry O'Connor

track "Nightmares." And, yes, it's quite likeable.

But then things take a turn down repetitive avenue. Sophomore is the only way to describe Gano's composition "Fat." Most of the songs are about a man who is about to leave his girlfriend. He's a bit of a ladies' man, though.

One song is about a man who is about to leave his girlfriend. He's a bit of a ladies' man, though.

Another is about a man who is about to leave his girlfriend. He's a bit of a ladies' man, though.

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