

STREET BEATS



Some have put Galaxie 500 on a par with Joy Division in terms of atmospheric and the Feelies in terms of rhythmic quality.

The two-chord odyssey of Galaxie

By Larry O'Connor
Staff writer

"All Along the Watchtower," Bob Dylan proclaims all be possessors is "three chords and the truth." The folk singer is doing better than Galaxie 500.

This Boston trio never seems to progress beyond rudimentary two-chord trumming on its highly touted LP "This Is Our Music" (Rough Trade).

And the truth? Galaxie 500 doesn't much have much to say about that, either.

But that's hardly the point. What Dan Wareham can do with only two chords many a band could not perform with an orchestra. In time, when excessive guitar noise is at a premium, Galaxie 500 erases the noise, evoking melancholia and malar desperation.

Sings a somewhat despondent Wareham on "Fourth of July": "I stayed at home on the Fourth of July, and I puffed the shades so I couldn't see the sky."

Popular opinion has it Galaxie 500 would be the perfect dinner

music, only if stranded on a desert island with a canteen of whiskey and nothing to eat. Does one have to be in a perpetual state of catatonia to appreciate Galaxie 500?

No, says drummer Damon Krukowski. One just needs an open mind.

"YOU JUST have to pay attention," said Krukowski, whose band opens for the Cocteau Twins Friday, March 29, at the Michigan Theatre. "So maybe you shouldn't watch TV while listening to it."

"I think our music is less catatonic than pop music. Pop music has less happening in it. At any moment, you can pick up any instrument or arrangement in our music. There's a lot of surprises, a lot of changes."

The shimmering economy in which Galaxie 500 performs has led the music press to label the band the second coming of the Velvet Underground. Others have put Galaxie 500 on a par with Joy Division in terms of atmospheric and the Feelies in terms of rhythmic quality.

All this would annoy most groups. Galaxie 500 wears such comparisons like badges of honor, sort of reflecting the self-deprecating nature of the band members themselves.

Sure, members acknowledge, the Underground and Joy Division are sources of inspiration. They even accept those comparisons. "These muses they're not all too familiar with, such as Neil Young."

"He's not someone we're really listened to," Krukowski said. "We just bought a couple of his albums, because his name keeps coming up when people write about us. Dean likes him. I'm bored by it, actually."

Some critics have said the same about Galaxie 500, saying the two-chord structure makes the music somewhat monotonous. Such judicious observations have been few, however.

KRUKOWSKI DOESN'T see the band deviating from the simplistic approach. Part of that can be attributed to members' rather limited musicianship.

Bassist Naomi Yang, Wareham and Krukowski are self-taught musicians, learning their craft by playing Clash covers in the beginning. The band formed in the Boston area in the fall of 1987.

They've never looked upon their inexperience as a weakness, but rather as a strength.

"I guess it's in the sense you're not judged by what's easy to play. It makes you hold onto what you can play," Krukowski said.

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SEEING THE SHOW

Who: The band Galaxie 500
Where: Michigan Theatre, 1000 Liberty, Ann Arbor. Reserved seats \$16.50. For information call 994-3562.
When: Friday, March 29, 8 p.m.

IN CONCERT

- **STEVE WOOD**
Steve Wood and the Paradise Valley Jazz Jam Band will perform Monday, March 25, at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. For information, call 923-2355.
- **BIG DAVE & THE ULTRASONICS**
Big Dave & the Ultrasonics will perform Monday, March 25, at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.
- **ETCH-A-SKETCH**
Etch-a-Sketch will perform Tuesday, March 26, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.
- **LUNA PARK**
Luna Park will perform Tuesday, March 26, at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.
- **CARNIVAL OF SHAME**
Carnival of Shame will perform Wednesday, March 27, at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. For information, call 823-2355.
- **BIG HUNK O' CHEESE**
Big Hunk O' Cheese will perform Wednesday, March 27, at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.
- **MICHAEL KATON BAND**
Michael Katon Band will perform Wednesday, March 27, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.
- **CHARLIE**
Charlie, vocalist, will perform Wednesday, March 27, at the Cross Street Station, 311 W. Cross, Ypsilanti. For information, call 485-9050.
- **ONLY A MOTHER**
Only a Mother will have its CD release party with guests Granfalloon, Thursday, March 28, at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. For information, call 823-2355.
- **HOWLING DIABLOS**
Howling Diablos will perform Thursday, March 28, at Sully's, 4758 Greenfield, Detroit. For information, call 846-1920.
- **KEVIN BROWN**
Kevin Brown will perform Thursday, March 28, at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747. The French singer will also appear at the Cross Street Station, 311 W. Cross, Ypsilanti. For information, call 485-9050.
- **TRUNCHEONS**
Truncheon will perform with guests, Funhouse, Thursday, March 28, at 3-D Club, 415 N. Main, near 12 Mile Road, Royal Oak. For information, call 589-3344.
- **HOLY COWS**
Holy Cows will perform with Mondo Funk Thursday, March 28, at Club Heidelberg, 215 N. Main, Ann Arbor. For information, call 994-3562.
- **THE DIFFERENCE**
The Difference will perform Thursday, March 28, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.
- **WILD KINGDOM**
Wild Kingdom will perform Thursday, March 28, at Cross Street Station, 311 W. Cross, Ypsilanti. For information, call 485-9050.
- **KREATOR K**
Kreator K will perform Friday, March 29, at Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Fenwick, Detroit. For information, call 663-MELT.
- **SHOUTING CLUB**
Shouting Club will perform Friday, March 29, at the Hamtramck Pub, 2048 Canfield. For information, call 365-2929.
- **MOL TRIFFID**
Mol Triffid will perform with Carnival of Shame and Central Friday, March 29, at Club Heidelberg, 215 N. Main, Ann Arbor. For information, call 994-3562.
- **EVE RENEE**
Eve Renee will perform with Paul Keller, The Prudes and Saturday, March 30, at the Hood of Paradise, 207 S. Ashby, Ann Arbor. For information, call 862-8339.
- **SCREAMING SAVAGE**
Screaming Savage and the Cavernmen will perform Friday, March 29, at Lulu's, 215 N. Main, Hamtramck. For information, call 875-6550.
- **CHICAGO PETE**
Chicago Pete and the Detritives will perform Friday, March 29, at Moby Dues, 3452 S. Taft, Dearborn. For information, call 881-3650.
- **SUN MESSENGERS**
Sun Messengers will perform Friday, March 29, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.
- **WINNABAGOS**
Winnabagos will perform Friday, March 29, at Cross Street Station, 311 W. Cross, Ypsilanti. For information, call 485-9050.
- **COCTEAU TWINS**
Cocteau Twins will perform with guests Galaxie 500 8 p.m. Friday, March 29, at Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Reserved seats are \$18.50. For information, call 99-MUSIC.
- **HANNIBALS**
Hannibals will perform with Trust Fund Friday, March 29, at Dimey's Pub, 3965 Woodward, Detroit. For information, call 831-8070.
- **DETROIT BLUES BAND**
Detroit Blues Band will perform Fri-



English singer Kevin Brown will perform Thursday, March 28, at Rick's Cafe in Ann Arbor.

day, March 29, at the Other End Lounge, 2855 Michigan, Taylor. For information, call 278-5340.

- **BEFORE OR AFTER**
Before or After will perform with Blue Nation and The Chapter Friday, March 29, at Psyche's Lounge, Canal Avenue, near Jos. Campau, Hamtramck. For information, call 872-8334.
- **BLUE NIMBUS**
Blue Nimbus will perform with guests Culture Hands Friday, March 29, at Hadden, 2135 W. Seven Mile Road, half mile east of Telegraph, Detroit. For information, call 535-8108.
- **CHARLIE MUSSELWHITE**
Charlie Musselwhite, legendary blues harpist, will perform with guests, Motor City Blues Project, Saturday, March 30, at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. Tickets are \$10.50. For information, call 823-2355.
- **IMITATION OF LIFE**
Imitation of Life will perform with guests, Chutes and Ladders, Saturday, March 30, at Club East, 29461 John, near 12 Mile Road, Madison Heights. For information, call 544-1294.
- **GEORGE BEDARD AND THE KING PINS**
George Bedard and the King Pins will perform Saturday, March 30, at Club Heidelberg, 215 N. Main, Ann Arbor. For information, call 994-3562.
- **NOG BARRAGE**
Nog Barrage will perform Saturday, March 30, at Saint Andrew Hall, 431 E. Fenwick, Detroit. For information, call 663-MELT.
- **JEANNE & THE DREAMS**
Jeanne & the Dreams will perform Friday and Saturday, March 29-30, at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.
- **THE BLEND**
The Blend will perform Saturday, March 30, at Cross Street Station, 311 W. Cross, Ypsilanti. For information, call 485-9050.
- **BOP (HARVEY)**
Bop (Harvey) will perform with The Exceptions Saturday, March 30, at Majestic Theatre, 4146 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Tickets are \$10 at the door. For information, call 833-9799.
- **BEER ON THE PENGUIN**
Beer on the Penguin will perform Saturday, March 30, at Feltz's, 2030 Jos. Campau, Hamtramck. For information, call 755-8555.
- **ROBERT PENN BLUES BAND**
Robert Penn Blues Band will perform Saturday, March 30, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.
- **KURU**
Kuru will perform with The Blake Scales, Saturday, March 30, at Pub 3655 Woodward, 1/2 mi. E. For information, call 831-2070.
- **REDFORD STEVE**
Redford Steve and the Detroit Special will perform Saturday, March 30, at MCA Books, 3452 S. Taft, Dearborn. For information, call 881-3650.
- **THE GENERALS**
The Generals will perform with Flare of Fun Saturday, March 30, at Psyche's in Hamtramck. For information, call 874-9254.
- **HARMONICA SHAH**
Harmonica Shah will perform Saturday, March 30, at Auburn Village Pub, 27 South Square, Auburn Heights. For information, call 557-1710.
- **THE ALLIGATORS**
The Alligators will perform Saturday, March 30, at Airport Hilton, Wings, 31500, West, Romulus. For information, call 292-3000. Ext. 175.
- **CATFISH HODGE**
Catfish Hodge will perform with guests Detroit Blues Band, Sunday, March 31, at Sully's, 4758 Greenfield, Dearborn. For information, call 846-1920.

TOP HITS

- Best-selling records of the week
1. "Someday" - Mariah Carey
 2. "One More Try" - Timmy T
 3. "All the Man That I Need" - Whitney Houston
 4. "Coming out of the Dark" - Gloria Estefan
 5. "All This Time" - Sting
 6. "Show Me the Way" - Steve
 7. "Where Does My Heart Beat Now" - Celine Dion
 8. "The House" - Tracy Spector
 9. "Hold You Tight" - Tara Kemp
 10. "Waiting for Love" - Allas
- (Source: Cashbox magazine)

Music Only a Mother could orchestrate

By Larry O'Connor
Staff writer

On the dimly lit street, there is a garage. A few rings of the door bell produce no results.

After knocking, a figure appears and invites the visitor into the garage.

Inside, there is a guy walking around flexing sheet metal. A music box has been made, we figure.

"We have a roomful of percussion," said Gourlay, who lives in the

home of avant-garde posters Only a Mother. This, judging by the fellow doing the Chuck Berry with the tin, must be a collision shop of sorts. But we're assured this is the home base for the creative core for Only a Mother. The fellow making the warring noise with the metal is percussionist Doug Gourlay.

"We have a roomful of percussion," said Gourlay, who lives in the

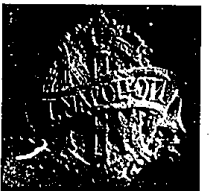
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The five-member Only a Mother's latest CD, "Naked Songs for Contortionists," is being released this week by San Francisco-based Ralph Records.

REVIEWS

I. NAPOLEON — I, Napoleon



Claiming to be the first to bring classical music and deep-seated rock together as one, I, Napoleon the band and the album languish as that attempt. The attempt does, however, produce a few divergent medieval metalcuts.

Singer keyboardist Steve Napoleon is the cornerstone of this band. Napoleon formed this present band only after writing most of the songs first, and also after getting a record deal with Geffen.

After coming out to Hollywood, he packed his present band members from the plentiful L.A. metal scene and the result is "I, Napoleon," the band, and I, Napoleon, the album.

"Folk like Suicide" is one of the raucous medieval acoustic cuts on the album. It's good. But the band stresses, that with all the litigation present on this touchy issue, it is not an endorsement for youth to commit suicide. It is instead a song about dealing with those feelings.

"Come Back Soon" is a romping melody, influenced by the music

JACK FROST — Jack Frost



Jack Frost is the result of a collaboration between the leaders of two Aussie bands. Steve Kilbey of the Church and Grant McLennan of the Go-Betweens.

The Church has, for the past 10 years or so, been a leader in producing surreal, sort of druggy, psychedelic soundscapes. The Go-Betweens are equally renowned for more pop-oriented songs, although they were praised by critics for their intelligent lyrics.

The two players seem a bit awed by the result of their collaboration because it is a rare effort in which both felt that they made completely equal contributions. They both profess not to remember who wrote what, the album was written and recorded in a mere three weeks, and the name "Jack Frost" just "popped into" McLennan's head. McLennan has even said that he has trouble differentiating between his own and Kilbey's vocals.

This could all well be true. What is not true is their assertion that their collaboration sounds like neither of their work. Actually, the album sounds like an unusual Church al-

bum. That could be because of Kilbey's vocals. His distinctive monotone is bound to make anything he sings on sound a bit like a Church song.

The album works well on all levels. If you listen to it purely for musical content, you'll be satisfied. In interesting instruments like oboes, violas and cellos, along with unusual arrangements, make each song sound different enough to keep your attention still throughout the album. There is a generally calm, hushed sound to the songs.

And lyrically, well, with two wordsmiths like Kilbey and McLennan, don't expect any "Yeah, baby" lyrics. The songs tend toward the obtuse and strange, par for the course with these two guys.

For fans of the Go-Betweens or the Church, the album is a must. For others who like their music eerie and understated, check out "Jack Frost." It's a treat.

— Jill Hamilton