### IN CONCERT

Monday, Nov. 2

Tuesday, Nov. 3

PARADISE VALLEY JAZZ JAM Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. Alvin's, 57 832-2355 832-2355
MIDWEST SHOWCASE
Featuring Higher, Hope Orch
Mirror, Night and Nu Hipples
Third Annual Deutoriol/Aildwer
case at The Hayloft Liquor's
Gratiot, Mount Clemens,
start at 8:30 p.m.
468-1010

SAMIAM With Bent, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. 961-MELT

CHISEL BROTHERS WITH THORNETTA DAVIS Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. 832-2355

Blind Pig. 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. 996,8655

Wednesday, Nov. 4

CAFE ZERO Griff's Grill, 49 N. Sagmaw, Pontiac. 334-9292

VUDU HIPPIES Blind Pig. 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. 996.8555

GARY LUCAS' GODS & MONSTERS Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. 832-2355

DOUGLE MACLEAN Tho Ark. 6371/2 Main, Ann Arbor. 761-1451

SCOTT STERN AND THE TRUST Doug's Body Shop, Woodward south of Nine Mile Road, Ferndale 398-1940

FULL MOON RISING Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. 996-2748

PATO BANTON Blind Pig. 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. 996-8555

Athens revisited: Uh oh.

Address of Athens, Ga. Michael Stipe invited them to play on a showcase... Could we be talking about

another R.E.M. clone? No

way. Magnapop embrace a lassic pop sensibility but have a grungy side to them. See for yourself Wednes-day, Nov. 4, at St. An-

drem's Hall, 431 E. Con-

Thursday, Nov. 5

troit. 366-8633

troit. 366-8633

STO-0005

MIDWEST BLOWCASE
Featuring Duce, Kerry Clark, RH Factors,
Ten Lost Tribes and The Geek MC as part
of the Third Annual Detrol/Midwest A&R
Showcase at The Hayloft Liquor Stant,
Alo N.Galalo, Mount Clemens. Performances Start at 8:30 p.m.
406-1010

tanti, 485-5050

MAGNAPOP With Wax, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit, 961-MELT

THE SEAD BAND Griff's Griff, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. 334-9292

334-9292
KISS ME SCREAMINQ
With Thunderharp Cheir, at Lili's, 2930
Jacob, Hamtramck.
875-6555

troit. 366-86**3**3

BUTLER TWINS O Club, 29 S. Soginaw, Pontiac. 334-7411

SUN MESSENGERS Blind Pig. 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. 996-8555

WIQ Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsi-

ELAN BANK
With Machine Gunn Kelly and The Pains, at Paychecks, 2932 Caniff, Hamtramck. 874-0254

Saturday, Nov. 7

MUDHONEY
With Clawhammer and Eugenius, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. 961-MELT

DC DRIVE The Ritz, 17580 Frazho, Roseville. 778-4150

JASON MACCAULEY BERRY With Java Dog, at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Sagl-naw, Pontlac. 334-9292 MISSIONARY STEW 3D Club, 1815 N. Main, Royal Oak. 589-3344

FIRST LIGHT Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor, 996-2748

DROP HANKER The Marquee, 8139 E. Seven Mile, D

KING BRÖTHERS The Ark, 6371/2 Main, Ann Arbor, 761-1451

ROLAND B With Restroom Poets, at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. 832-2355

DROP HANGER The Marqueo, 8139 E. Seven Mile, De-

LA TRINITY Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsi-

DEAD PROFESSOR With Smoke and Private Toys, at Pay-checks, 2932 Canliff, Hamtramck, 874-0254

Friday, Nov. 6

SLOT With Don Caballero, at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. 832-2355

FIRST LIGHT Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbot 996-2748

SWEET TEEZE
The Ritz, 17580 Frazho, Rosevillo.
278.8150

1P80 FACTO
With Chucklehead, at The Majestic, 4140
Woodward, Detroit.
833-9700

MOTHER'S ARMY The Marquee, 8139 E. Seven Mile, De

DEADBEAT SOCIETY
The Ark, 637½ Main, Ann Arbor, 761-1451

BILL HEID TRIO Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley, Ann Arbor. 662-8310

JASON D. WILLIAMS Sully's, 4758 Greenfield, Dearborn. 846-1920

PRAXIS
With Crabby Jacks, at Finney's Pub, 3965
Woodward, Detroit. Woodward, 831-8070

lanti. 485-5050

VIC CHESNUT Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. 832-2355

THE HYPNOTICS With Rockdaddy, at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Sagnaw, Pontiac. 334-9292

VUDU HIPPIES
With Have Nots, at LIII's, 2930 Jacob, Hamtranck, 875-6555



Thunder boomers: Graham Strachan (top left), Christine McCall, Don Didonato, Ron Vensko (lower left) and Jason Kuehn are intent on making Thunderharp Choir compelling creatively as well as entertaining.

# Choir captures creative harmony



The core of Thunderharp Choir features an amalgamation of two defunct local outfits Robb amaigamation of two defunct local outlies for your daying major record deals with those bands, they've settled down to focus more on the creative aspects of their music.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR STAFF WRITER

In the Thunderharp Choir cir-cle, there is musical savvy, an artistic vision and a whole lot of history

The latter, though, is what initially intrigues one.

Thunderharp Choir members ason Kuehn and Graham Stra-Jason Kuenn and Graham Stra-chan were the creative tandem of the highly acclaimed local outlit Robb Roy, which spent a considerable smount of re-sources and energy in pursuit of a record deal. When that fell apart, so did the band.

Likewise, Christine McCall fronted the equally ambitious, though a little more crunchy sounding Juglers and Thieves. They, too, were felled by the di-sillusionment of high expecta-tions and low returns.

One looks for the scars, but they're not there.
Freed from the treadmill of commercial expectations, the triumvirate is immersed in writ-ing and developing a new sound that is self-described as "be-tween alternative and pop, be-tween grunge and grace, heavy melody, hermony and guitar."

Thunderharp Choir has a four-song cassette, "That Sinking Feeling," planned for release this month followed by a CD release in January "Hope and Gloria."

"It's a fresh start, yes," said McCall, whose hair is shorter and is barely recognizable in jeans and a sweater from her mystic days when she sang in Jugglers and Thieves.

Juggiers and Theves.

Thunderhap Choir was borne more out of concept than conscription. The band was initially a loose collection of guest muscicans from Robb Roy, Jugglers and Thieves and other bands performing one off gigs.

When Robb Roy broke up a

year ago, Kuchn and Strachan decided to take the notion further. They included regular session member drunner Ron Vensko (formerly of EFX) and bassist Don Didonato.

Initially, McCall provided occasional background vocals but has since moved to the front to share lead singing duties with Strachan.

There is sentiment this is

Strachan.

There is sentiment this is what they should have been doing all along.

Strachan and Kuehn say Robb Roy became one-dimensional, blinded by the lure of the ever-clusive record deal. As a result, their cerativity waned.

"You kind of pander," Strachan seid. "We spent \$1,000 just sending people to New York and LA to shop us to the record companies. All said and done, Jay and I have nothing to show for it."

"A lot of Robb Power and the strack and the said and done, and the said and done when the said and the said

"A lot of Robb Roy was shake your butt and party." Kuchn added. "We were't as bad as some bands, and not that it wasn't fun..."
McCall expressors similar feelings about Jugglers and Thieves.
"I learned a lot of what these guys did, going for the big record deal," and McCall, who recently

married Kuehn. "It was hard for

married Kuehn. "It was hard for me to do it without the expectation of this big prize. That squashed my creativity."
Originality is the focal point now. Thunderharp Choir blends in divergent instruments such as dulcimer, violins and brushes on a tom tom drum for textural effects on songs such as the Cettic sounding "Home." But the band can call on its acute rock'n'roll instincts when needed.

Wishe and Stracken are prole

ed.

Kuehn and Strachan are prolific songwriters, but their lyrics
are from different perspectives.

Strachan, who admits there's
been a great deal of turmoil in
is personal life in the past year,
carves out more introspective
brooding numbers. Kuehn,
who's still brimming in the
newlywed glow, tends to churn
out, spiritually uplifting songs.

"Once we changed over. I had

out, spiritually uplifting songs.
"Once we changed over, I had a rough couple of years," Strachan said. "I slowed down a bit. We'll have times we're nothing is clicking.
"Right now, we have a lot of things happening."
Thunderharp Choir will perform with Kiss Me Screaming Friday, Nov. 6, at Lili's, 230 Jacob, Hamtramck. For information, call 875-6555.

# Sundays: A month's worth of indelible pop



The Sundays 1990 debut, "Reading, Writing and Arithmetic," was splendid, arresting and cherished. One wondered, though, if the British poportional weight to see it through asceond album or would a gowld wind scatter it into oblivion?

The doubts are hurriedly quashed with their gloriously rap-

wind scatter it into oblivion?
The doubts are hurriedly
quashed with their gloriously rapturous follow-up, "Blind," on David Geffen Company records.
To their credit, the creative
tandem of vocalist Harriet Wheeler and guitarist Dave Gavurin haen't howed to navasures Instand

er and guitains. Dave davin ma-ven't bowed to naysnyers. Instead, they've honed in and refined their well-documented strengths. Lyrically, this is still largely the stuff from which fluffy clouds are

made. But Wheeler's angelic, heavenly (pull out all the celestating and reveal yearing, are captivating and reveal yearing, angat and resolution in a single emotive breath.

She can single-handedly take a simple and seemingly lyrically inert number like "Love" to the precipice of emotional longing.
Gavurin still has the tendency to lapse into Cocteau Twins-style space-age strafing — obviously to coincide with Wheeler's sanctified vocals. His better moments, though, come when he's grounded in stark, pensive acoustic strumming such as in the penetrating "Life and Soul" and "Blood on My Hands."

He even takes an acoustic stala at one of the Rolling Stones' better written pieces, "Wild Horses," which Wheeler can't seem to propel out of the morass of dormant nostalgia.

The Sundays frailties, though.

nostalgia.

The Sundays frailties, though, makes them all the more endear-

ing. (David Geffen Company)

"Automatic for the People,"
R.E.M.:Rumor has it the initial inspiration for forming this megasuccessful group was to make an album merely approaching the subtle brilliance of Van Morrison's 1968 epic "Astral Weeks."
This is possibly as close as anyone could hope.
Nowhere in their vast catalogue of alternative fare has the Athens,
Ga., foursome produced an album

of alternative lare has the Athens, Ga., foursome produced an album this cohesive in tone, yet so overbearing in emotional turmoil your chest feels like caving at

"Automatic for the People" (Warner Bros.) is the antithesis of the jangly guitar pop synthesis R.E.M. defined for a generation of

imitators.

At times, Peter Buck's acoustle strumning and electric jabs become a heart race for sanity in a maze of pain and bitter introspection. Stipe's vocals are restrained,

almost dead panned.

The result is often a hard thuck which penetrates the most vulnerable part of psyche as evidenced in the mourful "Try Not to Breathe." By contrast, "Ignore, land" is a searing reaction to the politically myopic proceedings of the past 12 years.

But it's the wistful melancholy weaving its way through "Automatic" that offers refuge. Numbers such as the lighthearted as lute to the comedic genius of Andy Kaufman in "Man on the Moon" puts things into perspective and is a welcomed respite from an otherwise heavy album: (Warner Bros.)

(Untitled 4-Song EP), Cop Shoot Cop: New York industrial noisemakers return spewing grim, apocolyptic images designed to make the listless masses shudder in tracks auch as "Nowhere" and "We Shall Be Changed".

# gress, Detroit. For infor-mation, call 961-MELT. In times of strife, woman discovers inner-strength



Dear Barbara,
Remember
me? Well, here I
am again, this
time to say
thanks for all the thanks for all the help this column has given me. I wrote to you last year requesting advice about whether or not to stay married to my husband. He had recently en-

my husband. He had recently en-tered a drug freatment program and was successfully kicking his habit, but I could see that there was little real change in his basic personality. He was no more able to be intimate or fun without drugs than he had been with them.

Another woman then wrote to

say she had a similar situation with her husband and had "set-teld" for it. While I understand and respect her decision and the reasons for it, I also know that I could not make that type of situa-tion work for me. I would just continue to be discontented, un-happy and feel empty inside.

happy and feel empty inside.

I am glad the other reader made the decision which works for her, and she was absolutely right about many of the comments she made, such as "there's no guarantee the second time around." I've come to accept that for me it's "no pain, no gain," and I am willing to risk the pain of divorce and all the uncertainty of what my future will hold in order to give myself a chance at a happier life. Certainty, it is a great risk and contains no guarantee, but for me it be-

came a risk I had no choice but to take.

I am at a place in my life that I am healthier, both emotionally and physically, and more complete as a human being than I have ever been before. Thank God there is some advantage to getting older.

older.

When I met my husband, I had only one need coming out of the war zone of an alcoholic/violent family system: make me feel safe. Now, 15 years later, I am thankly had been a for trust, respect, lughter, friendship and intimacy with a partner. For someone to tense me and puzzle me and to share passion and excitement with. Someone I can be myself with, For me, these are the keys to happiness.

Realizing this about myself helped me find the strength and courage to ask for a divorce from my husband. It will be final next my husband. It will be final next year. I know my marriage was completely over when my hus-band very emphatically told me "there was no drug addiction, no dependency, just a personality problem and I have taken care of that." I couldn't believe my ears.

that." I couldn't believe my cars.
It really was THE MOMENT. I realized that's fine for him if that's his reality but I could not accept it after living with the effects of his drug use for 13 years and knowing what it cost me in terms of trust and respect.

Strangely, even though this is a very difficult and painful time (I do feel emotlonally drained), I am also aware of being stronger in a lot of ways than I've ever been be-

fore. I've enrolled in a divorce re-covery workshop, am losing weight, meditating, growing spir-itually, deepening friendships,

etc.
Even though things are the pits right now, I really do trust that I won't be "here" at this place forever. I trust that II do all the "right" things, which I am, eventually I will find myself in a much better place, perhaps a better place in my life than I ever dreamed possible. I expect to find hamplings.

that, I am doing my very best to take the situation and make it work for my good. Warm regards from Me again

Dear "Me Again,"
Congratulations! Every now
and then I thank letter writers for
deepening my respect and approciation of people. Such letters
help me to feel good about this
job.

If you have a question or a com-ment for Barbara Schiff, a trained therapist and experienced couri-selor, send it to Street Sense, Ob-server & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48160, happiness.

And in the midst of this sorrow, a lot of wonderful things have happened: loving support from so many friends, financial help from an unexpected source, discovering about myself, etc. It really is true that it's not what happens in life, it's what you make of it. Knowing