

StreetSCENE

Hope Orchestra has high hopes for its 'Lingo'



Saturday, the Hope Orchestra will be the center of attention when it celebrates the release of its first CD. They've spent the past two years honing a vibrant intellectually invigorating music and a dynamic stage presence.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

The Hope Orchestra will celebrate the release of its first CD this week.

Time to break out the champagne bottles? Better break out the Business 101 books instead.

Expecting to be awash in glowing, multi-adjecive discourses about the musical merits of "Lingo," their 12-song release, one is met only by the hum of industry from the alternative pop band.

Three of the five members are hunkered down at the kitchen table collectively folding invitations for this Saturday record release party at Alvin's. There seems to be a rather *que sera sera* attitude about the proceeding.

"It's a practical aspect of pop music today," said lead guitarist George Schuster. "You have to have a recording of the band for your fans for them to listen to at their leisure."

Business acumen has seen Hope Orchestra through in their four years of performing (including pre-Hope bands Of All Things and Walk the Dogma). Not surprisingly, the band's press kit trumpeting "Lingo" includes such useful office amenities as a letter opener and a card for the Rolodex with the band's name on it.

Methodical, pragmatic — all those dastardly things suppose to another inspiration. Hope Orchestra has this riddle figured out, though.

They've spent the past two years honing a vibrant intellectually invigorating music and a dynamic stage presence.

dynamic stage presence. "Lingo" serves to document this progress.

"We're trying to be innovative, creative and unique," said rhythm guitarist Gary Sosnick.

"We're not trying to be commercial."

"Or, I'd be wearing a halter top," added Jurgutis, whose stage presence doesn't pander to sexual clichés.

They want a record deal and they tackle practical aspects with the zeal of an Amway distributor.

Asta Jurgutis hands over a detailed document about a seminar she attended recently entitled, "Doing Music & Nothing Else." A database listing industry types sits on the kitchen table.

Somewhat lost in all this tends to be the CD itself, which features 11 original compositions with a cover of Jefferson Airplane's "Somebody to Love" for good measure.

Musically, The Hope Orchestra has always been a tight outfit with Dave Lyon on drums and Pete Pelletier on bass along with guitarists Schuster and Sosnick. Yet it's the classically stunning vocals of Jurgutis that offer an immediate focal point.

Lyrical, Hope Orchestra sways between '80s inspired political correctness and the sheepishly sentimental.

A number like "Politics of the Mind," which dates back to their Walk the Dogma days, is a crushing indictment of U.S. policy in Central America. "This Life You Call Money" lambastes yuppie greed.



Gotta have hope: The Hope Orchestra has invested a lot of time in fine tuning its sound and with the release of the new CD, "Lingo," is hoping for bigger and better things musically.

■ 'You have to have a recording of the band for your fans for them to listen to at their leisure.'

George Schuster

"Bumblebee" showcases Hope Orchestra's knack for writing indelible, iridescent pop melodies.

The making of "Lingo" was a painstaking process. The initial recordings were a disappointment

to band members.

Then they met up with well-known producer Geoff Mitchell, who managed the project into proper form in the final mix at Al's Audio Diner Studio in Ann Arbor.

"We didn't want to do it half ...

ed," Schuster said. "... We wanted to be ready. This band is fully ready."

The Hope Orchestra will perform on Saturday, Nov. 14, at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. Tickets are \$5 at the door. For information, call 832-2355.

STREET SENSE

No good solution for his situation



BARBARA SCHIFF

adrenaline output requiring extensive heart medications.

I do believe that I deserve credit no matter how much I've complained for continuing to finish college, receive a graduate degree, and to work. However, I am emotionally unstable — confused, depressed and hostile.

The point of my letter is as follows: I have become obsessed with thoughts of suicide. I don't know how much longer I will be able to stand the pain from my illnesses and the surgeries necessitated by them.

The conflict is as follows, my religion does not accept suicide and my family would not accept suicide. The one saving grace that I have clung to is that if worse comes to worse and if I no longer can stand the daily pain and the continuing surgeries that will be necessary that I can kill myself.

I am not a coward, I would not dump this on someone else to do it for me. I would not go to someone like Dr. Kervorkian (not that I am being critical of him).

No Longer Capable of Standing Suffering

Dear Barbara, I am a 29-year-old man who has been unfortunate in his life because of cancer necessitating surgery, an automobile accident disabling both legs and requiring surgery and an exaggerated

I do not feel that I am capable of judging another person's degree of pain. I do not feel that I am capable of telling you what you should do. An answer to your question would come from the philosophy of the person giving the answer.

If the person in a rugged individualist (like I think you are), he would cling to the desire to have the final say as to what was going to happen to him. If the person's philosophy was a belief in sacrificing himself for the good of others, he could then accept enduring pain.

I also understand that one can feel a lack of dignity in a life stricken with disabling medical conditions. To those for whom dignity is very important that would add to their distress in continuing to suffer.

Please excuse my inability to be more helpful. Barbara If you have a question or comment for Barbara Schiff, a trained therapist and experienced counselor, send it to Street Sense, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48160. You can also leave a message by calling 953-2047, mailbox 1877, on a touch-tone phone.

IN CONCERT

Monday, Nov. 9

WCCN-FM FALL BASH
With Blue Dogs, Brothers From Another Planet and Crackbox at Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-8555

LORENA MCKENITT
The Ark, 637 1/2 Main, Ann Arbor.
761-1451

PARADISE VALLEY JAZZ JAM
Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit.
832-2355

JUST FOR TODAY
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.
996-2748

MIDWEST SHOWCASE
Featuring Cyndiehead, Happy as Clams, Mocking Bird, Park the Karma and Thibodeau as part of the Third Annual Detroit/Midwest Showcase at The Hayloft Liquor Stand, 140 N. Glaston, Mt. Clemens. Performances start at 8:30 p.m.
468-1010

Tuesday, Nov. 10

MATTHEW SWEET
With the Jayhawks at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Advance tickets are \$10.50.
961-MELT

DEIDRA MCCALLA
The Ark, 637 1/2 Main, Ann Arbor.
761-1451

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

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

MIDWEST SHOWCASE
Featuring Back to Back, Debonair Fools on a Mission, Edwin Dure, First Degree and The Pilot as part of the Third Annual Detroit/Midwest Showcase at The Hayloft Liquor Stand, 140 N. Glaston, Mt. Clemens. Performances start at 8:30 p.m.
468-1010

Wednesday, Nov. 11

GREIVES
Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit.
832-2355

SCREWFACE
With Waste of Time at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.
334-9292

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

SCOTT STERN AND THE TRUST
Doug's Body Shop, Woodward Avenue.



At LaCasa: Gene Parsons and Meridan Green will perform at the LaCasa Folk Music Series at Birmingham Unitarian Church Friday, Nov. 13.

south of Nine Mile Road, Ferndale.
398-1940

ROOMFUL OF BLUES
Sully's, 4758 Greenfield, Dearborn.
846-1920

Thursday, Nov. 12

CARNIVAL ART
St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit.
961-MELT

AFGHAN WHIGS
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-8555

FULL MOON RISING
With Fiction at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.
334-9292

STRANGE BEDFELLOWS
30 Club, 1815 N. Main, Royal Oak.
589-3344

AL & EMILY CANTRELL
The Ark, 637 1/2 Main, Ann Arbor.
761-1451

ETHOS
With Physical Abuse and Poor Tno at Paychecks, 2932 Caniff, Hamtramck.
874-0254

J.C. WHITELAW
Punchline's, 184 Pierce, Birmingham.
644-5277

Cut, Gangster Fun, Charm Farm and Brotherhood Recipe at State Theatre, 2115 Woodward, Detroit.

MEAT BEAT MANIFESTO
Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac.
334-1999

THE POINT
With Club Chaos and Confuse a Cat at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.
334-9292

GENE PARSONS AND MERIDAN GREEN
LaCasa Folk Music Series at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 651 N. Woodward, at Lone Pine.
646-1950

BENEFIT
With Broken Yoyo and Only a Mother at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. Proceeds benefit Contemporary Arts Institute of Detroit.
832-2355

BONE
With Wit's End at Lil's, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck.
875-6555

HUNTUNES
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.
996-2748

FRANK ALLISON BAND
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-8555

DOWN BY LAW
St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit.
961-MELT

RTD BOYS
The Ark, 637 1/2 Main, Ann Arbor.
761-1451

PATRY RICHARDS WITH JEFF KRESSLER
TRIO
Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley, Ann Arbor.
662-8310

TESTAMENT
With D.R.I. at Harpo's, 14238 Harper, Detroit.
366-8633

BIG CHIMNEY
Q Club, 29 S. Saginaw, Pontiac.
334-7411

NEW ORLEANS RHYTHM AND BLUES REVUE
With Earl King and Eddie Bo at Sully's, 4758 Greenfield, Dearborn.
846-1920

TRASH BRATS
The Marquee, 8139 E. Seven Mile, Detroit.
366-8633

WALLS FACTORY FESTIVAL WITH JAMES BULLEN BAND, BUTLER TWINS AND HELLCATS AT BLIND PIG, 208 S. FIRST, ANN ARBOR.

996-8555
The Strait
WITH BILLY SUNDAY AT PAYCHECKS, 2932 CANIFF, HAMTRAMCK.

874-0254 Big Dave and the Ultrasonics
Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti.

485-8060
J.C. Whitelaw
Punchline's, 184 Pierce, Birmingham.
644-5277

JOHN D. LOMB
Mr. B's in Novi.
334-9292

448-7038
SATURDAY, NOV. 14

BOUL ASYLUM
With Lemonheads at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit.
961-MELT

BENEMED MOHAWKS
With Mike K at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.
334-9292

SATON CIRCUS
With Swinging Richards and Steve Dekker at Lil's, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck.
875-6555

HOPE ORCHESTRA
CD release party at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit.
832-2355

HANNIBALS
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.
996-2748

PAUL WELLER
The Marquee, 8139 E. Seven Mile, Detroit.
366-8633

NO MERCY
The Ritz, 17580 Frazer, Roseville.
778-8150

TWITCH
With Vision State at Finney's Pub, 3965 Woodward, Detroit.
831-5070

DIRTY LOOKS
The Marquee, 8139 E. Seven Mile, Detroit.
366-8633

GOSPEL AMBASSADORS
The Ark, 637 1/2 Main, Ann Arbor.
761-1451

PATRY RICHARDS WITH JEFF KRESSLER
TRIO
Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley, Ann Arbor.
662-8310

BIG CHIMNEY
Q Club, 29 S. Saginaw, Pontiac.
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NEW ORLEANS RHYTHM AND BLUES REVUE
Sully's, 4758 Greenfield, Dearborn.
846-1920

DIRTY LOOKS
The Marquee, 8139 E. Seven Mile, Detroit.
366-8633

SURGE TO UNION
With Top Soil and M.R.N. at Paychecks, 2932 Caniff, Hamtramck.
874-0254 Stone Soup