

Street SCENE

Featuring: 22 Belows features guitarist Greg Naumann, 21, drummer Jeff Clinton, 17, bassist Ross Haupt, 17, and guitarist and vocalist Blake Miller, 22.



22 Belows up to music's challenge

The folks at the Rev. Jerry Falwell's Liberty University may not have appreciated Blake Miller's music, but the new-music troubadour is finding there are those who like the sounds he and his band 22 Belows are churning out.

By LARRY O'CONNOR
Staff Writer

In his college days, 22 Belows founder Blake Miller created shimmering acoustic music with an unrelenting beat. The problem was his rhythm section often came uninvited.

The pounding was usually a resident adviser rapping on his dorm room door to shut down the secular music proceedings.

"After all, this is Liberty University we're talking about. The place the Rev. Jerry Falwell made famous and not the least hospitable to new music troubadours.

"I always had these guys coming to my room and begging me to play these songs for them," says

Miller, 22, recalling his freshman year at Liberty University. "A crowd would always gather and wouldn't be 10 or 15 minutes later the RAs would be down there busting me."

"We would sort of goof around. It just seemed like the RAs were working overtime."

Such subversive activity landed Miller before the board of review after accumulating too many reprimand points. All of this would seemingly paint a picture of an angry young man.

Yet, his new band, 22 Belows, is anything but an angst-ridden, suffocating endeavor. The group features guitarist Greg Naumann, 21, drummer Jeff Clinton, 17, bassist Ross Haupt, 17, and Miller.

22 Belows go the guitar driven introspection route, unearthing soulful emotion and frayed melancholy with gushing frequency. My Bloody Valentine, Ride and Inspiral Carpets can only be used as reference points.

The band has been together since September, putting together some demos and playing an infrequent number of gigs. 22 Belows open for another soundscape band with a former Liberty University student, Spectacle, this Saturday at Finney's Pub.

One may wonder about the feasibility of a burgeoning noise pop band. Few, such as My Bloody Valentine, are proficient at it and the genre is saturated with imitators.

"That's what I've been wrestling with myself," Miller says. "All of these alternative genres are recycled anyway. Some people say Pearl Jam is alternative. To me, it's '70s rock with a '90s production sound."

"I think what American bands have on our side is that it hasn't exploded here yet. I hope American bands here can cultivate their own sound."

Miller is already trying to do that. After moving off campus, he became involved in the rave scene in Lynchburg, Va.

House and techno influenced his songwriting, Miller says, contrasting melodic and pulsating rhythms underneath. The 22 Belows sound is still evolving, though.

"Once you kind of cash in on an idea you like, it's very hard to let that be it's own idea and leave it there . . ." Miller says. "It's a challenge for yourself to constantly write something clever or different."

22 Belows will perform along with Spectacle and Charon on Saturday, Dec. 18, at Finney's Pub, 3965 Woodward, Detroit. For information, call 831-8070.

IN CONCERT

Monday, Dec. 14

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

Tuesday, Dec. 15

CHIEFTAINS
Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University, Ann Arbor.
(Celtic Kingpins)
764-8350

DRÖVERB
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. (Celtic wannabes)
996-8555

CHIESEL BROTHERS WITH THORHETTA DAVE
Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. (Blues)
832-2355

Wednesday, Dec. 16

ILLEGAL
With Asylum at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. (Metal)
334-9292

BIG DAVE AND THE ULTRASONICS
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. (Blues)
996-2747

TEN HIGH
With The Monarchs at Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor.
996-8555

TEDDY RICHARDS
With Groovespoon at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. (R&B/funk)
832-2355

Thursday, Dec. 17

THE HOPE ORCHESTRA
With The Opaque at 3-D, 1815 N. Main, Royal Oak. (Cogent alternative pop)
589-3344

SOMETIMES WHY
With Morsel at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.
334-9292

DEATH AND TAXES
With World of Hurt and Stand Alone at Psychicks, 2930 Canfield, Hamtramck.
874-0254

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

FRANCISCO MORA'S CAMINOS
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. (Latin jazz)
832-2355

SAMARITANS
Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti. (Rock)
485-5050

BLUES REVUE
With Ben Mocio and the Blues Express Band at The Manic Bar, 25234 Greenfield, Oak Park.
968-7550

Friday, Dec. 18

JUNK MONKEYS
With Sunnig Bedfellows at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. (hard rock)
961-MELT

DUKE ROBILLARD
Sully's, 4755 Greenfield, Dearborn. (Blues)
846-1920

SKELETON CREW
Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. (Acoustic rock)
334-9292

HONKY DORY
With Fomosa Pop at Lil's, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. (Ftore rock)
875-6555

ROBERT PENN
Q Club, 29 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac. (Blues)
334-7411

FOOTLOOSE HOLIDAY SHOW
The Ark, 6379 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. (Rock)
761-1451

HARVEY THOMPSON
Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley, Ann Arbor. (Blues)
662-8310

MISSED IN DIARY
Psychicks, 2930 Canfield, Hamtramck.
874-0254

FRANK ALLISON'S WOOLY MAMMOTH
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor.
996-2747

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

THE NAMELESS
Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. (Alternative rock)
832-2355

CALVIN BROOKS
Maxie's Lounge, 14060 Telegraph, Redford. (Motown/R&B)
538-8200

JAMES WALLIN
Moby Dicks, 5452 Schoefer, Dearborn. (Blues)
581-3650

HELLCASTERS
Ted's Pub, 38 S. Main, Clawson. (Blues)
435-4755

UNCLE CHUNK
Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti. (Psychedelic)
485-5050

BLACK MALI
With Jason McCauley Berry at Finney's Pub, 3965 Woodward, Detroit.
831-8070

SCOTT STERN AND THE TRUST
Hutley's Pub and Grill in Northfield Hilton, 5500 Crooks, Troy.
879-2100

Saturday, Dec. 19

SPECTACLE
With 22 Belows and Charon at Finney's Pub, 3965 Woodward, Detroit.
831-8070

MIND
With 17 Reasons Why at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.
334-9292

POLISH MUSLIMS
With Cowlingers at Lil's, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. (Parody pop)
875-6555

ROBERT PENN
Q Club, 29 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac. (Blues)
334-7411

SOUTHGANG
The Fitz, 17560 Frazito, Roseville. (Hard rock)
778-6404

JOEL HANUS RECORD RELEASE CONCERT
The Ark, 6379 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. (Rock)
761-1451

HARVEY THOMPSON
Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley, Ann Arbor. (Blues)
662-8310

SECOND SELF
With Cinecote at Psychicks, 2930 Canfield, Hamtramck. (Hard rock)
874-0254

TRINIDAD TRIPOLI STEEL BAND
Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. (World music)
996-2747

ALVIN'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY
With Calhoun, The Loyabouts, Broken Yoyo and The Ghost Band at Alvin's 5756 Cass, Detroit.
832-2355

CALVIN BROOKS
Maxie's Lounge, 14060 Telegraph, Redford. (Motown/R&B)
538-8200

JAMES WALLIN
Moby Dicks, 5452 Schoefer, Dearborn. (Blues)
581-3650

HELLCASTERS
Ted's Pub, 38 S. Main, Clawson. (Blues)
435-4755

MARY MCQUIRE & MYK RISE
Mr. s in Troy.
689-6070

THE PRETTY GREEN
Benefit for Capuchin Community Center at The Gallery, 22750 Van Dyke, Warren. Admission is \$1 and a can of food.
757-6030

SCOTT STERN AND THE TRUST
Hutley's Pub and Grill in Northfield Hilton, 5500 Crooks, Troy.
879-2100

KINSEY REPORT
Sully's, 4755 Greenfield, Dearborn.
846-1920

Sunday, Dec. 20

HAPPY ACCIDENTS
St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. (Soul searching rock)
991-7411

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



LARRY O'CONNOR

Both embody the sense of community and goodwill in which they were conceived. Proceeds from "Christmas in Detroit" will go to the Lakeshore Optimist Club while the Goober & the Peas' effort will benefit the non-profit social work agency Crossroads.

Beyond their charitable merits, though, both projects are sterling examples of the beautiful array of musical talent in this area. (Besides how can you go wrong when Ernie Harwell shows up on both of them.)

"Christmas in Detroit" brings together some of the Motor City's more talented groups. The 11-song release contains both classics and originals, some incorporating a serious message while maintaining an overall festive tone.

There's blues with the all-star conglomeration, Blues Disciples, tearing through "(Havin' a) Christmas Party" while the Detroit Blues Band put forth a smoky rendition of the yuletide classic "Merry Christmas Baby." Another blues highlight is The Chisel Brothers, featuring Thoretta Davis' majestic vocals, performing "Boogie Woogie Santa Claus" with aplomb and soulful clarity.

The rock corner is aptly manned by DC Drive - whose members Brian Pastorin, Mark Pastorin and Jimmy Romero put the project together - as they contribute their own rollicking number "Santa Bring My Baby to Me." Frosty & the Snowmen,

featuring members of the Silver Bullet Band and DC Drive torch up the chestnut Chuck Berry made famous, "Run Rudolph Run."

The Howling Diablos' "Another Christmas Story" is a haunting, R&B tinged number sung in an ominous Lou Reed-like commentary about homelessness. Skeleton Crew's uplifting acoustic rendering "Nam Myoho Renge Kyo (Peace on Earth Will Live Forever)" serenades as much as it rouses the spirit.

Sandra Mandella's exalted vocals on The Johnny Trudell Band's nightclub jazz version of the somber "My Christmas Tree" provide a state of grace to the proceedings. Mitch Albom and Janine Sabino's contribution "Jingle Bells (Ring for the Lonely)" and Pastorin's "Someday at Christmas" are cherished for their sentimental tenor.

All of which makes some of the DJ prattle between numbers rather superfluous instead of

being overbearing.

Not surprisingly, Goober & the Peas take a more misletoe-in-check approach on their three-song CD holiday release. The band does a Seattle/surf version of "Snoopy's Christmas" while "My Love for Her" gets the "hill-billy" tear-in-the-beer treatment and nearly eclipses the emotional wallop of Elvis' "Blue Christmas." Like we said, nearly.

"Toll the Lord (What Santa's Done)" features Goober in the true Christmas spirit, calling to heaven with intrepid urgency ("there's a man, who's done you wrong/last name Claus, first name of Santa/Steals the glory when your day comes along.")

Christmas never sounded so good.

"Christmas in Detroit" and "A Christmas Eve Get-Together With . . . Goober & the Peas" are available at area record stores.

Parent's actions have effect on child



BARBARA SCHIFF

Dear Barbara, I would like to know what effect it has on children, whether preschool or high school age, to sleep in a divorced parent's home while the parent shares a bed with a friend of the opposite

sex. Dear K., There is no question that such an experience will influence a child. It will influence the child's values, the child's ethics and the child's character.

Mothers and fathers are role models for their children. With their actions, they set a path to follow and reveal deeper, although unspoken, attitudes in themselves. When Mom or Dad sleeps in the family home with someone who is not their husband or wife they are making a strong statement about their values or lack of them.

Although it may or may not be obvious, they're making this statement all the time with other

behaviors as well. Children are necessarily influenced by the messages their parents impart and with some children unspoken messages are more powerful than messages that are voiced.

How and to what degree any one child will be affected by this experience is unknown because there are so many other factors bearing down on the child. Some of these are the values, in this area, of the other parent, the values of the neighborhood and the school system in which the child lives, the child's relationship with the friend who sleeps over and the

child's own inborn temperament. We don't know whether some of these other factors will reinforce or negate the child's reaction to this experience.

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, 30251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. You can also leave a message by calling 950-2047, mailbox 1877, on a touch-tone phone.



Singing the blues: Robert Penn will perform Friday and Saturday, Dec. 18-19, at the Q Club, 29 S. Saginaw St., Pontiac.