

Street

STREET SOUNDS

'Rock Animals' — Shonen Knife



Shonen Knife, a female Japanese band, play the most unpretentious and catchy songs since, perhaps, the B-52's debut album in 1979, will bring their infectious import sound to Detroit's St. Andrew's Hall on Saturday, April 30. The show follows last year's opening gigs with Nirvana and U2, shores with its delightful 1992 release "Let's Knife," with clever yet simple songs about fishing for black bass, riding a rocket to other planets and stumbling upon a "Devil House" during a thunderstorm. The band blended reggae and Japanese sounds on "Ah, Singapore," a two-minute standard. "Whereas 'Let's Knife' blended The Ramones and Leslie Gore into a fresh, exciting sound, the band's new Virgin Records release, "Rock Animals," has a harder edge that disappoints even as it reveals the band's diverse talents. It sounds better with repeated listenings.

The track "Concrete Animals" lets us know that those stone statues in parks have secret parties and dance at night. "Catnip Dream" tells of a cat's experiences on "a kitty cat drug." "Tomato Head" details an obsession of drinking tomato juice every night to become what the title suggests. With summer in sight, a trip to the beach sounds inviting. For real fun, take Shonen Knife along.

— Darrell Clem

'The Crow' soundtrack — various artists 'Backbeat' soundtrack — The Backbeat Band

Fans awaiting new releases from The Cure, Stone Temple Pilots and Rage Against the Machine can satisfy their craving somewhat with the release of the soundtrack to the film "The Crow" on Atlantic/InterScope records.

Stone Temple Pilots' lead singer Weiland proves in the ballad "Big Empty" that he can carry a song. In "Darkness," Rage Against the Machine subscribes to the same formula that made their self-titled debut album successful. "The Badge," by hard rockers Pantera rivals the Rollins Band's "Ghost Rider."

The real stars of the soundtrack, however, are the lesser-known acts. Machines of Loving Grace in "Gotha Tenement Blues," who have long deserved attention, may finally get their break. For Love Not Lisa's swirling guitar sounds make "Slip Slide Melting" one of the more addictive songs on the album.

The album also features new material from a variety of other alternative acts: Nine Inch Nails, Helmet, My Life With the Thrill Kill Kult, Jesus and Mary Chain, Medicine and Jane Siberry. Many of the songs drag on too long, but they make a nice sampling of the diversity of rock music.

The movie, due to be released in mid-May, stars Bruce Lee's son Brandon as a working-class musician who returns from the dead to avenge his own murder and that of his fiancée.

The soundtrack to "Backbeat" also features an all-star musical lineup, however, they're performing together as the Backbeat Band, playing cover songs that the Beatles recorded. The movie tells the story of Stuart Sutcliffe, dubbed "The Lost Beatle," who died at age 21 of a brain hemorrhage.

The Afghan Whigs Greg Dulli and Soul Asylum's Dave Pirner trade lead vocal duties as guitarist Don Fleming (Gumball), drummer Dave Grohl (Nirvana), bassist Mike Mills (REM), and guitarist Thurston Moore (Sonic Youth) join in on the Virgin Records release.

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You can win Paw tickets

Alternative rockers Paw sing about their "good dog" Jessie in the song of the same name on their album "Dragline."

We want to know what makes your pet a "good" pet (it doesn't have to be a dog). Call 933-2003 and let us know. Make sure you leave your name, address, age, and daytime telephone number.

The person with the best pet story will win two tickets to Paw's all-ages show Thursday, April 28, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. The Chainsaw Kittens and Horse will open the 7:30 p.m. show.

The deadline for the contest is noon Wednesday, April 27. The phone line is open 24 hours a day.

Four runners-up will receive copies of Paw's latest CD "Dragline," a special edition live EP which includes a new track "I Know Where You Sleep," and other Paw-aphernalia.

The winner of the tickets will be notified by phone. Runners up will be printed in Monday, May 2, edition of Street Scene.

McGuire: Not just ordinary folk



Mary McGuire has reason to smile. Her day job is at a place she's frequented since age 7; her self-titled, three-song cassette tape is a sellout; and her date book is filled with gigs. Not bad for a folkie... er, rock singer/guitarist.

BY MARK E. GALLO
STAFF WRITER

"I get to go to work and say, 'I'm gonna go play now.'"

Mary McGuire is a contented woman, with a smile that just

doesn't go away for very long periods of time — not surprising, when you consider the life she leads.

Her day job is at the Royal Oak Music Center in downtown Royal Oak, the store that she's been shopping at since she was 7. Her self-titled

three-song cassette tape, that she sells at shows and through Harmony House, has completely sold out, and she has more live performance dates set up than you might expect she would know what to do with.

Although she was named best female folk vocalist in a 1989 poll, she prefers being called a rock musician, although she sticks with folk, country and blues when pressed for a description.

"When you say rock, they'll ask, 'What kind of rock?'"

Although there is a treasure trove of original material in her repertoire, she's a veritable repository of '70s musicalia. Working from a song list of 60-70 songs — "It seems like I'm playing the same 10 over and over."

— she is pretty hard to stump with requests.

"The challenge me," she said of her audiences, "and I like to be able to at least play something by the band, if I don't know the song."

A music theory, composition and trombone major who studied at Michigan State University, McGuire is a singer/guitarist. That doesn't automatically peg her as a Joni Mitchell wannabe, although Mitchell is near the top of her list of favorites.

"I had a friend who told me to go out and buy every Joni Mitchell album and learn every song," she said of her introduction to the folk rock business. Neil Young is her very favorite musician, and Elton John ranks pretty high among faves, too. Alice Cooper and Led Zeppelin ("That's the Way," for instance, is a regular part of the repertoire) are also major influences on her playing.

No, this is not your run-of-the-mill folkie.

"What I listen to is different from what I play," she said.

New age to Lynyrd Skynyrd to a

near daily fix of Led Zeppelin's "Physical Graffiti" do not comprise the set list of a woman who is comfortable with just being comfortable.

Depending on what night of the week, and at which venue you catch McGuire, you're as likely to encounter her solo, or in the company of a friend or two, adding flute, violin, saxophone or more guitar and harmony vocals. She's not a dyed-in-the-wool solo act by any stretch.

In years past, a wide variety of bands have filled her time, from Spiral Dance and Drooping Name to Ash Can Van Gogh, a popular act

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with the folks at both WRIF and WDET. Possibly, she had the most fun with Tempress, a band that specialized in the glam rock of Aerosmith, AC/DC and the like.

As much as she dislikes being pigeonholed, McGuire isn't overly fond of gathering muses, either. She spends her summers on Mackinac Island, loves to visit the Florida Keys ("It's just full of working musicians down there") and plays New York's legendary Bitter End just about any time she wants to. Durango, Colo., and Santa Fe, N.M., will make the list this year, too.

If you're not planning on doing any jet-setting of your own this year, however, there are still a few more chances to catch her locally, before the summer calls.

McGuire plays every Monday through May 16 at Four Green Fields, 3333 N. Woodward, Royal Oak, (810) 280-2902; April 30 at Brennan's Pub, 33210 W. 14 Mile at Farmington Road, West Bloomfield, (810) 855-6220; and May 13-14 at the Back Seat Saloon, 3064 Orchard Lake Road, Keego Harbor, (810) 682-1119.

Devilins take a simple approach to music

BY CHRISTINA FUCCO
STAFF WRITER

For The Devilins, touring is a family affair. Besides the fact that vocalist Colin Devlin and bassist Peter Devlin are brothers, the rest of their entourage is high school friends. That's made the Irish hand more comfortable on its first full U.S. tour, yet a little less professional.

"We're having a ball. Our guitar tech and roadies are friends from home. It's probably not the most professional (organization) but it's a lot more cool," said an affable Peter Devlin.

It may be good companionship but sometimes it can be a little hair-raising. Devlin said sometimes he feels he has to keep a leash on drummer Sean Devitt and keyboardist Niall Macken who have never visited the United States.

"It's a tough job to keep it together," he said, adding that every time he turns around the two are exploring once again.

This tour takes the band on the road with Canadian pop star Sarah McLachlan at a sold-out show at the Music Hall, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit, at 8 p.m. Monday, April 25.

Devlin admits it kind of confuses him.

"We've completely sold out of T-shirts. I don't know why they (Canadians) bought them. It's so bloody cold (in Canada) that they never get a chance to wear them," said a giggly Devlin.

The Devilins recently released their debut for Capitol Records, "Drift," which features guest appearances by Robert Bell of The Blue Nile and fiddler Lisa Germano.

Like McLachlan, The Devilins take a simple approach to their trade — musically and lyrically. Colin Devlin's heart-wrenching spoken-sung vocals laid over subtle acoustic melodies and shuffling beats contrasts their unsettling, fuzz-toned chords.

Lyrically, Colin Devlin feels his direct lyrics "really hit home with people."

"Everything we do is quite simple and direct... like my guitar playing. It's quite simple, but I think that's why it strikes a chord. We want people to make some sort of connection with our music," said the singer/songwriter/guitarist.

The Devilins will open for Sarah McLachlan at a sold-out show at the Music Hall, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit, at 8 p.m. Monday, April 25.



On tour: Peter and Colin Devlin make up The Devilins, an up-and-coming acoustic-based group that opens for Sarah McLachlan tonight at Detroit's Music Hall.

IN CONCERT

Items should be submitted two weeks in advance to: Christina Fucco, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or by fax at (313) 591-7279. Please include venue's address and phone number with area code.

Monday, April 25

MARY MCGUIRE and RILEY ROYCH
Four Green Fields, 3333 N. Woodward Ave., Royal Oak, (810) 280-2902

SARAH McLACHLAN
With The Devils at the Music Hall, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit. Sold out (pop) (313) 963-2366

SEVEN SECONDS
With The Scruffs, Meatpack and Sam Black Church at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. (alternative rock) (313) 961-4617

Tuesday, April 26

THE DROVERS
Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. (rock) (313) 996-8555

THE ALLMAN BROTHERS
State Theatre, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. (acoustic) (313) 961-5431

THE DEVILINS
With the Obsessed at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Stealing Westward and Pitch Shifter play the Shelter below St. Andrew's Hall. (alternative rock) (313) 961-4617

THE ORS and DEAD CAN DANCE VIDEO APPEARANCE NIGHT
3-D, 1815 N. Main St., Royal Oak. (810) 580-3344

THE WALTONS
Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. (alternative pop) (810) 334-1999

Wednesday, April 27

THE ALLMAN BROTHERS
State Theatre, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. (acoustic) (313) 961-5431

"HURRY UP BALL"
New club night which features '70s-'90s rock at Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. (810) 334-1999

THE ALLMAN BROTHERS
With The Scruffs at Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. (alternative pop) (313) 996-8555

CHARLIE HUSSELMAN
The Majestic, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. (313) 963-7680

BILL MEYER ORCHESTRA WITH MARLA JACKSON
Somerset Collection, 16 Mile and Cookridge roads, Troy, (424) (810) 643-7440

Thursday, April 28

THE ALLMAN BROTHERS
State Theatre, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. (acoustic) (313) 961-5431

NEW MUSIC ON THE BLOCK (BLUES)
Royal Oak Music Theatre, Fourth and Lafayette streets, Royal Oak. (pop) (810) 644-6666

CITY LIMITS BLUES BAND
Hosts jam session at Doc Fooks, 7935 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. (blues) (810) 624-7200

THE LOOK
Lakeland Park, 9495 Chilton Road, Lakeland. (810) 231-4000

THE RESTROOM PORTS

Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. (alternative rock) (313) 996-8555

ARTHAUS

With Fight at Harpo's, 14238 Harper, Detroit. (rock) (313) 924-1700

JOEY FRIEDMAN

Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. (alternative rock) (810) 334-1999

PAW

With Chainsaw Kittens at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. (alternative rock) (313) 961-4617

POTTERPOT

With Twitch and Blind Guy Driving at 3-D, 1815 N. Main St., Royal Oak. (alternative rock) (810) 589-3344

ABRIAN LERO

Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. (313) 996-8555

UNDERBUSH
With Event and Society at The Ritz, 17580 Fresh, Roseville. (rock) (810) 778-6404

See IN CONCERT, 6B