

4B(O) (F)

MONDAY, MAY 2, 1994

## MUSIC NOTES



CHRISTINA FUOCO

**M**arilyn Manson wanted to capture a live feel when they recorded their debut album so they took matters into their own hands — they mimicked a live show in the studio. "I was singing with a mic and I took the mic stand and 'smashed it in the studio,'" said lead singer Mr. Manson.

The band, who will release its album in June, is set to bring its live show to the State Theatre in Detroit on Sunday, May 8, to open for Nine Inch Nails. (The show is sold out.)

NIN lead singer Trent Reznor produced the band's debut for his Nothing Records label so he's pretty confident that NIN fans will embrace Marilyn Manson, too. "Nine Inch Nails fans will be interested in anything that Trent Reznor is involved in it."

Besides that, Mr. Manson said that he and Reznor have a lot in common. "Trent and I are (ticked) off for our own reasons," Reznor, he theorized, is "unsatisfied" with his current situation. He, on the other hand, is "basically commit[ed] at the world with a shotgun, shooting everyone in my way."

As for the bizarre name, it's a combination of Marilyn Monroe and Charles Manson's names. "People always need flashy names to get attention (in the entertainment industry). I'm making a mockery of that."

**C**ollective Soul has had a whirlwind courtship with the music industry since it signed with Atlantic Records in early February. A snippet of their video for the single "Shine" shows up sandwiched between videos by Alice in Chains and Ice Cube in an MTV commercial.

"Shine" is also frequently played on alternative and rock stations while the album "Hints, Allegations & Things Left Unsaid" is selling more than 3,000 copies per week.

Now the band is in the midst of its first major headlining tour. That's not bad for a band that's officially been together for less than a year. Has the band's heads stopped spinning yet? "It still is," said lead singer Ed Roland. "It hasn't slowed since."

The band will bring its hook-laden blues-inspired rock to The Hitz, 10's and Gratin, Roseville, on Friday, May 6. Call (810) 778-6404 for more information.

For trivia nuts, the phrase "Collective Soul" is how Ray Bradbury describes mankind in her novel "The Fountainhead."

**C**ongratulations to Shawn Grimes of Rochester Hills, who won two tickets to the Paw concert last Thursday at St. Andrew's Hall in Detroit. Kimberly Garrett of Westland, Tony Gagnon of Detroit, Sue Tollafield of Ferndale, Jim Hofer of Harper Woods, Tony Barragan of Lincoln Park, Cathy Sanchez of Lake Orion, Todd Bolton of Monroe, Mark Phillips of Wayne, and Steve Mohr of Westland, can look forward to receiving Paw CDs, posters and singles in the mail.

To leave a message for Christina Fuoco, dial (313) 953-2047, mailbox number 2130, on a Touch-Tone phone, or write her at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

## STREET SOUNDS

### McFly — Spanking Bozo



On their new album, "McFly," the Detroit-based band Spanking Bozo use the same funky pop formula that made many bands rich.

Most of the album walks that familiar street looking for a different route to take and finding nothing new, but there are a few tracks that are welcome exceptions. "Wipe Off That Face" takes the funkiness to another wonderfully eccentric level. "I.B.L.A. (James Brown Is Alive)" is a response to the L.A. Style hit "James Brown Is Dead."

Proclaiming "Electronic disco music by sensitive white boys from England is dead but... James Brown is alive," Spanking Bozo shows that the funk James Brown brought to the world is also alive.

Their only obstacle is that there has been so much done with funky pop music that it is difficult to carve a distinctive niche. "McFly" shows a band with the ability to take the funk to their own level once they find their space.

— Eric Darling

## Harris, the Snakes? Charming

Mimi Harris has proven she's a musical storyteller, crafting songs filled with sublime imagery. She also has proven she can sing with power of Janis Joplin and the bluesy style of Bonnie Raitt.

BY MARK E. GALLO  
STREET BEATS WRITER



That Mimi Harris comes from a theatrical family seems obvious. There's an inherent sense of drama that threads its way through every song she sings, a sort of hard-boned theatricality. A story teller of sublime imagery, she is one of the premier songwriters in the area, yet she is equally adept at bringing a musically astute, discerning and sympathetic voice to the songs of heroes and peers.

There is a fervor that informs every performance, and it's the direct result of that fever for the stage instilled in the Grand Rapids native as a child. A couple of years of honing her musical chops on local coffeehouse stages, when she was barely eligible for enrollment in high school, completed the one-two

### STREET BEATS

punch that sent her on her path. There was never any doubt that Mimi Harris was meant to be a performer, and it was as a seasoned vet that she first hit the Detroit area music scene some 17 years ago. She's been a powerhouse presence ever since.

Although she was a staple early on at venerated venues like the Blind Pig and Mr. Flood's Party in Ann Arbor, there were also the bread-and-butter days of what she calls "the Dry Dock and Mountain Jack scene," as a "human juke box" for six nights a week. "Those are the gigs that put her through the transitional times."

Such is the life of the singer/songwriter. In Harris' case, though, there came the revelation that a little electricity and a rockin' little groove had a much broader appeal.

The first band, an R&B outfit that she formed with the Hocketts' John Fraga, was born in 1979 as Mimi & the Midnighters. A couple of years later came the Intruders, with Jim McCarty of Mitch Ryder/Rockets' Detroit Blues Band fame.

Somewhere in the mid-1980s, she even sang with the Sun Messengers, an experience she calls valuable, if



Smart move: Mimi Harris has landed a recording contract with Blues Factory Records with the help of The Snakes, and together, they'll record 10 original compositions later this year.

only for the opportunity to sing with a big band.

Through it all, her reputation grew steadily among a constantly growing legion of fans. Then, she took a couple of years off "to be a mom."

With the formation four years ago of The Snakes — Greg Calder (drums), Mike Marshall (bass), Bill Cooper (lead guitar) and the just added keyboard of Jimmy Bones — Harris has the kind of hand every musician dreams about.

As intuitive as they are chops smart, they're the band that helped Mimi Harris land a recording contract with Blues Factory Records. Sometime this June or July, she and the band will record 10 original compositions for the label that's had so much to do with putting Detroit back on the musical map. She's already excitedly planning a CD release party for December.

Often compared to Janis Joplin (for her power) and Bonnie Raitt (for her slinky bluesy style), like any

performer worth her royalty check, Mimi Harris rises above easy comparisons.

In the apples and oranges mileaud that is the Detroit music scene, it may be beyond reason to call anyone the best at anything, but Mimi Harris is certainly in that category of one of the best reasons in town to actually get out there and experience the magic of live music.

Mimi Harris will play a rare solo show at the Disc Cafe in downtown Pontiac (333-2233) May 5.

## IN CONCERT

Items should be submitted two weeks in advance to: Christina Fuoco, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or by fax at (313) 591-7279. Venues' addresses and phone numbers with area codes must be included.

### Monday, May 2

FRANK ALLISON AND THE CDD SOX  
With Piano at Rock's, 611 Church St., Ann Arbor. (alternative rock)  
(313) 996-2747

ROLLERSKATE SKINNY  
The Skettler below St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. (alternative rock)  
(313) 961-MELT

POOKA  
Brass coffeehouse, 305 S. Main St., Royal Oak. (acoustic)  
(810) 399-7200

### Tuesday, May 3

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

JEFF WILKINSON  
The Ark, 637½ S. Main St., Ann Arbor. (acoustic)  
(313) 763-8587

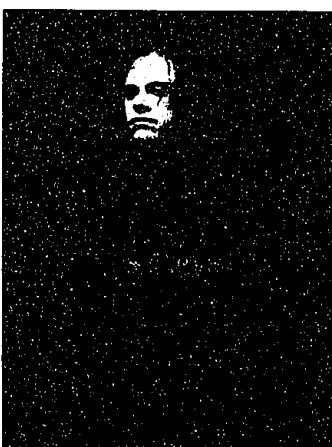
POOKA  
Espresso Royale, 324 S. State St., Ann Arbor. (acoustic)  
(313) 662-2770

### Wednesday, May 4

THE CHALMERS  
With Queen Sarah Saturday at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. (afternoon)  
(313) 961-MELT

JASON MCCABLEY BERRY  
Guitar Center Deep Jazz Series, 401 Depot St., Ann Arbor. (jazz)  
(313) 769-0582

BANISTER JACK ELIOTT  
With Bruce Pratt at The Ark, 637½ S. Main St., Ann Arbor. (acoustic)  
(313) 763-8587



Matthew Sweet:  
At the Blind  
Arbor May 6.  
Pig in Ann

### Thursday, May 5

BLACK ANTE  
Paycheck's Lounge, 2932 Canfield, Hamtramck. (rock)  
(313) 874-0254

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

TERRY GORDA  
With The Luckies at L.I.'s, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. (blowy rock)  
(313) 875-0665

BOWEN'S GROVE  
With Anethyst at Studio Lounge, 6921 Wayne Rd., Westland. (rock)  
(313) 729-2540

CDDA  
With Flextangle and Cymonic Drive at The Rez, 17580 Frazee, Roseville. (rock)  
(810) 778-6404

HAL  
With EC at Bund Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. (industrial alternative rock)  
(313) 996-8555

ELECTRO MAN  
With Nickan at Grif's Grif, 49 N. Saginaw.

Pontiac. (rock)  
(810) 334-5150

ELLIS PAUL  
The Ark, 637½ S. Main St., Ann Arbor. (acoustic)  
(313) 763-8587

### Friday, May 6

BERNARD MONAWK  
L.I.'s, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. (rock)  
(313) 875-0555

MATTHEW SWEET  
With Holy Cows at Bund Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. (pop rock)  
(313) 996-8555

MATERIAL ISSUE  
Industry, 15 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. (pop rock)  
(810) 334-1999

BLUEBADERS  
Doc Ficks, 7935 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. (blues)  
(810) 424-7200

THE CRISSEL BROS. WITH THORNTON DAVIS  
Spokane, 31410 Ford Road, Garden City. (blues)  
(313) 425-7373

MULE JAMES AND THE PLANETARWARRERS  
Moby Dick's, 5452 Schaefer Road, Dearborn. (blues)  
(313) 561-3650

ELLIS AETHON COUNCIL  
Stan's Dugout, 3350 Auburn Road, Auburn Hills. (blues)  
(810) 852-6433

BACK DOOR BLUES BAND  
Sports, 106 Maple, Wyandotte. (blues)  
(313) 285-5000

BOB REDWOOD BRYANNE  
Corbett's, 1990 Rochester, Troy. (blues)  
(810) 568-3471

NO MERCY  
With Darryl Plummer at The Rez, 17580 Frazee, Roseville. (rock)  
(810) 778-6404

Y.O.B.  
With The Ground at Grif's Grif, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. (rock)  
(810) 334-5150

SPECIAL CONGRESS  
With Terry Furtado and Sugarbeet at The Ark, 637½ S. Main St., Ann Arbor. (acoustic)

See IN CONCERT, 5B