00! STREET SCENE

68(F)

MUSIC NOTES

CHRISTINA FUOCO

BUE MASON, EDITOR 963-2105 CHRISTINA PUOCO, MUSIC WRITER 953-2130

THURSDAY APRIL 6, 1995

## **Morphine: Freshness in music**

🖬 Guitarless Morphine enjoys a painless existence in the music industry, relying solely on a two-string bass, saxophone and drums. The band considers their innovative sound "palate cleansers."

## BY TODD WICKS SPECIAL WAITER



ment of the new "Mistory of hocks of the second sec

The band was also with a pays have the set of the seto



'Palata cleansers': Morphine - drummer Billy Conway (from left), saxophonist Dana Colley and bassist/vocalist Mark Sandman — considers its guitarless music a freshing change.

man — considers its guitariess music a freshing change. Speaking with a skilled saxophon-ist, it's a bit of an embarasment to and his fellow band members seem realize that Clarence Clemons is still unpretentious and more than willing: nock's best-known player. Think the saxophone sort of paved itself into a corner as (just) a cording to Colley, Morphine is prepared for both the cultured crowd solo part in a rock song." Colley said. "You know, 'OK, here comes the tener solo, here comes the alto solo, go for the coulds and get out'. I don' know why it's not used more in abase sense." his band's almost universu accepa-ance. "It's really nice, to be honest," he said. "We try to any that it doesn't really matter what people say, but it's hard not to feel the strokes. There have been some characterisations or critiques that haven't been so favor-able ... but you need it once in awhile to balance (things out). People have been really positive overall, so it's a little bit of a head swell to think that you're really that good." sense

sente." Geography also makes a difference. "You go down to New Orisans and the sanophone is THE instrument," he said, strangely ochoing the state-ment made by "Skunk." "Even with young kids, the sax and the trumpet and those instruments are more pop-ular than the guitar. Part of it is just their own history, their bistory of mu-sic." aic

sic." Now Colley's talking jarx territory. Although a self-proclaimed lover of jarz, he thinks of his own band in no such terms. "(Morphine's music) is a rock format and approach. We defi-nitely point to jarz as an influence, and it is. But to me, it's definitely work music."

"We have plenty of all-ages abow," Colley said. "Our audience spans 6 to 60, seriously. People tell me about their 6-year-old putting on "Cure for Pain' or dancing to "Language" (a track off of "Good"). I've heard punk-ers telling me that it's the one about they and their grandparents can lis-ten to together.

"We've seen everybody, all sizes and shapes at our shows." And although Morphine may not play traditional rock 'n'roll, it doean't mean Colley ian't afraid to induige in a little joking, arena siyo chesiness: "And we'll see you, too!"

such terms. "(Morphine's music) las rock format and approach. We daff. Initely polot to jazz as an influence, and it is But to me, it's definitely For a highly respected band such as formation, 2010 645-6666.

Ginger offers polished, mature sound

## BY CHRISTINA FUOCO

With its lush vocals and instrumentation, the Canadian pop quartet The Grapes of Wrath looked like a picture-perfect example of a band destined for tremendous success.

product press campte of a band destined for tremendous success. Inner turnol, however, had a hand in the fate of The Grapes of Wrath. Personality conflicts be-tween singer/quitarist Kavin Kans and his three bandmates got so bed at times that rousing shows were "a drag is lot of the time."
"This person (Kans) threatened to quilt it was a very unstable situation," said The Grapes of Wath's former basist/vocalist Tom Hooper. Before Kans had a chance to Lever, Hooper, drummer Chris Hooper and plantat Vincent Jones dissolved The Grapes of Wrath.

Doing better: Ginger, featuring forof The Grapes of make a rare Detroit anbelow St. An-

mer members

Have a listen To least remain by Hootie and the Blowfish iss RALINA, public awardon ensonmer-sons by classer Darkas Rucker (massage horphine (massage 3), Dal Amitri (massage ), Paile Boddew (mersage 4), Big Block massage 5), Thu Verve Pipe (massage 5), alongy Socker (message 7), and Goober 4 The Pass (message 7), and Goober 4 The Pass (message 7), and Goober 4 the Pass (message 7), and Goober 4 and the second static Lass et al. 19 643-8025 on a such-scap phone. Fast-forward to the corre-positing message by pressing Second report missage, press 4.

thing they had to face. "It was a mistake to release it as a single in the first place," be said. "We wrote it to belp us be-cause people close to us were raped and we were trying to figure out how to deal with it correleves. We never expected it to belp anyone but cor-selves."

By the series repeated it to below with a Construction of the series of the series

## "It was definitely a big step," said Hooper whose B'We had a certain amount of band had been filing 8,000 sest venues. "We had a certain amount of popularity in Canada. It was kind kind of like we were throwing that areas. We were of like we were throwing that betting that we weren't going to be around much away. We were betting that we

his band's almost universal accept-

that you're really that good." However, Colley does realize the pioneering role that Morphine has

Wrath will pearance April 15 at The Shelter drew's Hall.

betting that we wren't going to be around much more anyway." In November 1992, the three resurrected their talents and jumped head-first into Ginger. Their debut full-length album, "Fer Out" (Nettwerk), has the same feel as The Grapes of Wath but with a more polished, mature sound. It's also considered innovative in Canada be-cause it's one of the first to include a CD-ROM multi-media presentation. The program gives viewers a glinpse into the recording program gives viewers a glinpse into the recording program gives viewers a glinpse into the recording program fives viewers a glinpse into the recording program gives viewers a glinpse into the recording program

Tom Hooper bassist/vocalist

The complete videos for "Solid Ground" and "The Earth Revolves Around You" are also acces-

The single "The Earth Revolves Around You" is tailing as well. In the chorus Hooper sings: "I'm giving up something. I thought it was real. Now I don't care II is spend it with you. I'm lived of your problems. The earth revolves around you." It's easy to assume that it's about Kane. Hooper at first wouldn't say yes, but it could be," he said. "The situation is quite a coincidence. It was a bad breakup and I didn't write the song to go 'na ma na an a' over the airways. It's something you don't want to be bilter and mean about and point fingers publicly."

want to be blitter and mean about and point fingers publicly." Instead, he's foculng his energy on promoting Ginger, whose live shows include the addition of guitaritis Been Ashby and Lanny Hunsey as well as selected Grappes of Wrath sourg. The Hoopers and Jones have found this starting over insi's all that bed in this case. "Obviously, I'd be jring if I said I prefer to play small clube to a thousand people every night; the situation where we were playing to a thousand peo-ple every night was so bad. It was a drag a lot of the time, "be seld. "The moory is noise and staff (buil) we're young enough still where we can kind of like start again and got to where we were by the time we're 60."

Ginger performs with the New Ministers at The Bheiser below St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit, on Sciurday, April 15. Doors opm at 6:20 pm. for the 18 and older show. Tickets are \$7 in advance. For more information, call (313) 901-MEL7.



