

STREET SCENE

STREET BEATS

Blues From the Heart

— Detroit Blues Artists Live

Recorded live at Detroit's historic Soup Kitchen Saloon last December, this recording of the second gathering of local blues artists is a benefit for the Wayne County Society for Autistic Citizens as an even more laudable effort than its predecessor, "Live At Lou's," which was deemed the local blues album of 1994.

Like that wonderful collection, this offers a superb taster of the local blues community, and sees it stand its ground next to any other city's talent. Unlike the "Lou's," this one is 100 percent recorded live.

Uncle Jessie White, a fixture at Hamtramck's Attic Bar for years, kicks off the festivities in fine fashion on Big Maceo's "She Stays Out Every Day and Every Night." Pushing 80, he sets the stage with his triple threat vocals, piano and harp playing. From that point forward, the average age of the players drop considerably, but the energy level never does.

The Blues Survivors' take on Muddy Waters' "Cross-Eyed Cat" features hot harp from Darren James. The Blue Suit Band's version of "Lucky Man" is drop-dead perfect; and the Garfield Blues Band's version of the Eddie "Cleanhead" Vinson jump blues classic "Hold It Right There" is worth the price of admission alone.

■ The applause at the end was cut off too soon. This one deserves a standing ovation. If you can't find it at your local record store, contact WAY/SAC at (313) 464-8831 and ask how to get a copy.

Mimi Harris and the Snakes check in with an energized "Snake Blues," on which guitarist Bill Cooper matches the vocalist's energy level, and the Howling Diablos, bolstered by the equally impressive guitar work of Bobby East, stretch on a typically unique Martin Gross composition, entitled "Business Man Legs."

Jeff Grand, longtime Butler Twins guitarist, runs his band through the changes on Albert Collins' "I'm Good," and local legend Jonnie Bassett and his Blues Insurgents do their magic to "Mean Feelin'."

The Alligators, like few other groups represented here, are long overdue for a CD of their own. "Saved" serves as a tonic. Award-winning blues trombonist Bugs Bellow and his Brigade turn in "Boat Gig," a song as funny as it is tight; The Detroit Blues Band, with ex-Mitch Ryder and Cactus guitarist Jim McCarty on board, do an impressive take on Muddy Waters' "Hello Little Girl," and The City Limits Band, led by "Blues Review" publisher Ron Oster, burns through "One Way Out."

The Sharecroppers of Soul, one of the busiest bands in town, are in with an original, called "Monster in My Pocket," and the set closer by vocalist supreme Tormenta Davis and the always amazing Chisel Eaters have "You Can Have My Husband" forms a perfect bookend to Jessie White's opener.

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— Mark E. Gallo

Zebra — Yello

Fair warning — Yello is not a color, but a musical state of being.

The European techno duo has made that point a few times over the years and now redefines that fact with their latest release, "Zebra" (4th and Broadway).

Besides producing world-renowned dance beats which have inspired a generation of dance track groups, the duo saw its largest success in the mid-1980s when their dance tune "Desire" was featured on the trendy police/detective program "Miami Vice." The band conquered more musical territory when "Oh Yeah," now considered a nostalgic dance song, was spotlighted on the NFL Football soundtrack and in five Hollywood movies including "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" and "The Secret of My Success."

The '80s are as dead as spiked hair and Vogue, and today's dance tracks are pushed aside as more popular genre of guitar-driven post-punk material takes center stage. Nevertheless, "Zebra" is a smooth and solid-sounding techno-based release.

The 11-track "Zebra" flows like a soundtrack to an accompanying deep art movie, which has not nor ever will be released.

The duo mixes sounds, noises and music into a ball of mishmashed movements which throb to its own beats. Unlike more modern dance artists who use and reuse the same inspiring techniques, Yello creates its own musical reality in its own state of mind.

— Kyle Green is a freelance reporter from Lake Orion.

Have a listen

To hear music by Wakeland (message 2), Stir (message 3), Freddy Jones Band (message 4), Botfly (message 6), Motorhead (message 6), Supernova (message 7), Batteries Acid (message 8), Walling Souls (message 9), and Charlie Sexton Sextet (message 10), you can call the Street Scene Music Line at (313) 963-3025 on a touch-tone phone. Fast-forward to the corresponding message by pressing 23. To repeat a message, press 4.



Be AWARE: Gregg Latterman of the AWARE organization hopes more people will pay attention to acts like The Freddy Jones Band, who headline the AWARE Festival along with The Verve Pipe Saturday, July 1, at St. Andrew's Hall in Detroit. The Freddy Jones Band is, from left, guitarist/vocalist Wayne Healy, drummer Simon Horrocks, bassist Jim Bonaccorsi, guitarist/vocalist Rob Bonaccorsi, and vocalist/acoustic guitarist Marty Lloyd.

Aware spotlights regional bands

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

Having lived in East Lansing, Texas, Massachusetts, and Colorado, Gregg Latterman has been exposed to a variety of regional bands whom he believed were this close to making it to the majors.

He turned his friends on to the mostly acoustic-influenced rock bands. But because the bands' music was so hard to find, Latterman quickly became the guy that everyone turned to for home-made compilation tapes. Eventually he got fed up with spending his time and money copying tapes and CDs for his friends.

"I got sick of buying tapes and making tapes so I thought I'll just make a company," said Latterman, who was working as a CPA at Coopers and Lybrand in Boston at the time.

So he started Madaket Records and slapped some of his favorite bands on the "Aware I" and "Aware II" compilation discs. The idea behind it was to make music listeners aware of acts who were known only within their hometown areas.

"Aware" is about trying to spread the word about great bands. The way

it kind of started was there was all these great regional bands who were ready to go national. I was just trying to get the word out," said Latterman who now lives in Evanston, Ill.

The two CDs, which have sold 30,000 all together, are a testament to his knack for finding bands with huge potential. Many of the bands appearing on the CDs — Jackpierce, Hootie and the Blowfish, Better Than Ezra, The Verve Pipe, Edwin McCain Band and Mother Hips — have scored major-label deals since appearing on "Aware I" or "Aware II." (The Hootie and the Blowfish track "The Old Man and Me" is from an independently released album that is no longer available.) Other bands like the Dave Matthews Band and the Freddy Jones Band expressed an interest in the Aware projects before they inked their deals.

Both bands have remained big supporters of Latterman's organization. The Dave Matthews Band sells its back catalogue through Latterman's booths at the H.O.R.D.E. Festival. The Freddy Jones Band will appear as part of the Aware Festival at St. Andrew's Hall in Detroit Saturday,

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Gregg Latterman

July 1, with Stir, Wakeland, Botfly, and The Verve Pipe.

For drummer Simon Horrocks of the Freddy Jones Band, playing St. Andrew's Hall is like a dream come true, he said. He frequented the hall while growing up in Dearborn, seeing acts like the Police.

Freddy Jones Band recently finished their second CD for Capricorn Records called "North Avenue Wake-Up Call," named for the bumpy exit off of I-94 in Chicago where the quintet lives. Horrocks said he's "really proud" of "North Avenue Wake-Up Call," due out in early August.

"The songs are really from our heart. We had a lot to do with the production of it. The way that we recorded it, we all played it together and we didn't use any electronic

tricks. We just kind of played some music and went from there."

The Aware Festival in Detroit, Latterman said, is a good example of the camaraderie between Aware bands. "The band's managers will talk to each other, and give each other opening dates. It's like a big co-op thing."

Doors open at 6 p.m. for the "Aware Festival," featuring The Verve Pipe, Freddy Jones Band, Wakeland, Stir and Botfly, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Tickets are \$10 in advance for the 18 and older show. Tickets sold for the original location, the Phoenix Plaza Amphitheatre in Pontiac, will be honored at St. Andrew's. For more information, call (313) 961-MELT. The AWARE organization can be reached at (800) AWARE-65.

Motorhead marks 20 hard rocking years



Rock 'n' roll icon: Lemmy and his band Motorhead comes to Pine Knob Music Theatre on July 4 to help fans celebrate Independence Day.

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

In his 25 years of touring with rock bands, Motorhead singer/bassist Lemmy has some fond memories of Detroit.

"It's always been excellent," said Lemmy via telephone from his California home. "When I first met Alice Cooper, I've never looked back."

He soon learned there was a lot more to Michigan than Alice Cooper after his ride left without them during a tour stop here.

"I once hitch-hiked across the entire state of Michigan. I had to deal with homosexual truck drivers, bitches in Volkswagens," he said with a smoky-voiced laugh.

Motorhead is celebrating its 20th anniversary by releasing "Sacrifice" (CMC Records International), which marks the band's return to a three-piece lineup. "Sacrifice" is Motorhead's 18th album and, Lemmy said, it's one of the band's best yet, but he can't really explain why.

"Just the way it turned out. Motorhead has never planned anything. We just wander through life banging into walls, you know. It seems to turn out all right. We always seem to find the hotel, metaphorically speaking."

They must be doing something right. Nearly every heavy metal band that has formed within the last 10 or so years cites Lemmy as an influence. He doesn't understand that.

"I don't hear us in their bands, really. I don't. Then again I was influenced by the Everly Brothers and you don't hear much of that in my music. Every now and again you will with

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Lemmy
Motorhead bassist

the harmonies, I guess."

These days, besides writing music, Lemmy pens a monthly column for "RIP" magazine.

"It's all right," he said about his relatively new career. "It's been nearly a year. I've done religion, the record business, and gun control."

"It's all right as long as somebody don't come out on the tour with a gun and shoot at me."

Short of that, Lemmy said he will tour as long as he is physically able.

"I love what I do and I ain't qualified to do anything else. No, I do what I do very well. That motivates me too. I'm very proud of my band."

Motorhead and Black Sabbath appear at Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Southpark Road, Clarkston, on Tuesday, July 4, with Motorhead kicking off the show at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$22.50 pavilion, and \$12.50 lawn.