

THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



New Studio Company presents "Angels in America: Millennium Approaches," 7:30 p.m., at Varner Studio Theatre on the Oakland University campus, call (248) 377-3300.

SATURDAY



Soupy Sales performs 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. at the Farmington Civic Theatre in Farmington, call (248) 477-5556.

SUNDAY



Photographer Carl R. Sams II is among the local artists participating in the 20th annual Ann Arbor Spring Art Fair 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, call 1-(800)-888-9487.



Hot Tix: Olympic gold medalist Tara Lipinski and other "Champions on Ice" present two star-studded performances 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, May 2 at Fox Louis Arena, 600 Civic Center Dr., Detroit. Tickets \$55, \$40 and \$30, call (248) 646-6666. For more information, call (313) 963-6606.



FOR JESUS LIZARD

IT'S THE BEST OF TIMES

New release: Chicago-based The Jesus Lizard - from left, bassist David Wm. Sims, vocalist David You, drummer James Kimball, and guitarist and former Plymouth resident Duane Denison - looked to former Gang of Four member Andy Gill to produce its sixth album "Blue."

Duane Denison is taking a breather in his Chicago-area home.

For the Plymouth native and guitarist for the band The Jesus Lizard it's been a hectic couple months - and his group's new album "Blue" hasn't even hit stores yet.

In the last month, he and his three bandmates have toured Australia and New Zealand, and are now gigging around Europe before returning to the United States to play a series of shows including one at the Blind Pig in Ann Arbor Thursday, May 7.

"This is the best time for being in a band. We have lots of new material and there's a little more of a buzz to the shows," said Denison, a 1977 graduate of Plymouth Salem High School, in between tours.

The new material will be found on "Blue" (Capitol). The Jesus Lizard's sixth studio album, which hits stores Tuesday, May 5, "Blue" is somewhat of a departure for the Lollapalooza veterans.

The song "Eucalyptus," for example, blends Eastern sounds with The Jesus Lizard's abrasive punk rock sound. "It's very distinctive. The guitar is mixed in with some Indian string samples that create an interesting textural thing. It's the most unique song on the record," he said.

"We experimented a bit more and there's some different sounds on there. There's some keyboards and samples and an occasional drum loop. We weren't so concerned about whether or not we could replicate everything live. Live we play different versions of the songs. That's the way it should be," Denison explained.

The emphasis was on making a good album, he explained. "Blue" was recorded at the Chicago Recording Co. and Record Plant in Hollywood, Calif., with the help of former Gang of Four member Andy Gill. Denison described Gill as a very understanding producer.

"We had a couple weeks of pre-production in the studio. We went over the arrangements and picked spots where we wanted to drop different things. He's very easy going, and if he had an idea we weren't crazy about, we just said 'No. We don't want to do that.'"

"One thing in particular is the very first song on the album ('I Can Learn') starts out with an odd timing thing like in seven and it goes into a regular 4/4 rock part. He wanted to keep the seven time signature all the way through. So we said, 'No. That's a little too much. There should be a break.'"

Gill, Denison said, spent "a lot of time on the vocals especially constructing vocal melodies that we used and not used as we saw fit. There was a lot of songs that have, for instance, multiple tracks of guitar feedback in the background that kind of come and go. He worked with us as far as final arrangements and drum patterns as well."

Although the band and Capitol Records haven't decided on a single yet, Denison is hoping to hear The Jesus Lizard's music on the radio soon.

"I'd love to see it get on the radio," Denison said of "Eucalyptus." "I don't have any false hopes though."

Regardless, the music is fun to play live, he added.

"Some songs are easy to make sound good live and are therefore fun to play of course. 'Horse Doctor Man' and 'And Then the Rain' are fun. There's this nice sort of tension and release going on. It seems to go over well live even with people who haven't heard it before. They're fast and rockin' and straight forward."

Renaissance man

Denison has been a member of the alternative rock quartet since its creation in 1987.

Upon graduating from Salem, Denison majored in music at Eastern Michigan University from which he graduated in 1984. A classically trained guitarist, Denison studied flamenco music with Juan Serrano and jazz with Christopher Parkening.

In an interview in early 1997, Denison said all that aside he gave into his cravings to play punk rock. "The punk rock thing started happening and it was too exciting. I couldn't stay away from it. It made the idea of being in a band fun and exciting again. At the same time I wanted to finish up school," said Denison.

There he met bassist David Wm. Sims and singer David You, then of Scratch Acid, all of whom began writing songs after the demise of their respective bands. Their first recording was a five-song EP called "Pure" (Touch and Go Records). The Jesus Lizard, known for their heavy, pop-like

Please see LIZARD, E2

MUSICAL SERIES

Classical, jazz and pop, UMS schedule has it all

From classics and dance to "Capitol Steps" and "A Huey P. Newton Story," the 1998-99 University Musical Society season offers 51 different ways to spend an interesting afternoon or evening at the theater.

"We are thrilled by the breadth and scope of the events that we are presenting in the 1998/99 season," said UMS president Kenneth C. Fischer. "Our classical presentations are among the strongest ever, with six fabulous orchestras; vocal debuts by pianist Mitsuko Uchida, soprano Renee Fleming and violinist Maxim Vengerov; a return engagement by flutist James Galway; and UMS debuts by pianist Andras Schiff and violinist Sarah Chang."

Perhaps the most noticeable change in the season is "The Harlem Nutcracker's" move to Detroit Opera House.

"We were selling out every per-

Please see UMS, E2



Guest artist: Pianist Michael Tilson Thomas will lead the San Francisco Symphony in a program, which includes Gershwin's "American in Paris," Sunday, Sept. 27.

University Musical Society 1998-99 Season

What: Concert series on the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor campus, which features 76 performances of 51 events. Fourteen different series packages - including a choose-your-own Monogram series of events - now available. Tickets: Call (734) 764-2538, or (800) 221-1229 to order series tickets, or to request a brochure detailing all the events in the 1998/99 season. Series tickets start at \$55. Single event tickets available after Monday, Aug. 17.

SEASON SCHEDULE

September

- 8:15 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11 - Elvo and Koma perform in the Huron River. Seating on the banks of the river in Nichols Arboretum.
- 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 27 - San Francisco Symphony, Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor and piano, Hill Auditorium.

October

- 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9 - Afro-Cuban All Stars, Michigan Theatre.
- 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10 - St. Petersburg Philharmonic, Hill Auditorium.
- 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14 - John Williams, guitar, Rackham Auditorium.
- 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16 - Capitol Steps, Michigan Theatre.
- 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18 - Fourmen String Quartet, Rackham Auditorium.
- 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23 - Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, Power Center.
- 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24 - Budapest Festival Orchestra, Hill Auditorium.
- 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27 - David Daniels, counter-tenor, The Arcadian Academy.
- Nicholas McGinnis, director and harpsichord, Lydia Mendelsohn Theatre.
- 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30 - La Capella Real de Catalunya and Hesperion XX, Jordi Savall, viola da gamba and Montserrat Figueras, soprano, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church.

November

- 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 2, Kirov Orchestra of St. Petersburg, Hill Auditorium.
- 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6 - Vienna Virtuosi, principal members of the Vienna Philharmonic.
- 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7 - Jazz Tap Summit: An All-Star Celebration of Tap Dancing featuring tap legends, Hill Auditorium.
- 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8 - American String Quartet, Rackham Auditorium.
- 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11 - Mitsuko Uchida, piano, Hill Auditorium.
- 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12 - Assad Brothers with Bodi Assad, Rackham Auditorium.
- 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13 - Sequentia, Hildegarde von Bingen's Ordo Virtutum (Play of the Virtues), St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church.
- 8 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, Nov. 18-21 - A Huey P. Newton Story, Trueblood Theatre.
- 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22 - Emerson String Quartet, Rackham Auditorium.
- 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 27: 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 28-29 - The Harlem Nutcracker, Detroit Opera House.

December

- 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2 through Sunday, Dec. 6, Performances Saturday & Sunday 2 & 8 p.m. - The Harlem Nutcracker - Detroit Opera House.
- 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5: 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6 - Handel's "Messiah," Hill Auditorium.

January

- 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8 - Trinity Irish Dance Company, Power Center.
- 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9 - Gershwin: Song and Unsong, New York Festival of Song, Lydia Mendelsohn Theatre.
- 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 16-17 and Monday, Jan. 19, 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16: 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 17 - The Gospel at Colonus, Power Center.
- 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 28 - American String Quartet, Rackham Auditorium.
- 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 29 - Anne Sofie von Otter, mezzo-soprano, Bengt Forsberg, piano, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Lydia Mendelsohn Theatre.
- 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30 - Beethoven's Contemporary, one-hour family performance, American String Quartet, Rackham Auditorium.

February

- 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 7 - American String Quartet, Rackham Auditorium.
- 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 12-13 - IMMERCE: The Merce Cunningham Dance Company, Power Center.
- 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 14 - Maxim Vengerov, violin; Igor Uryash, piano, Hill Auditorium.
- 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 15 - Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Pepe Romero, guitar, Rackham Auditorium.
- 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 19-20 - Meryl Tankard Australian Dance Theatre, Power Center.
- 8 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, Feb. 23-25 - Kodo, Power Center.

March

- 8 p.m. Thursday, March 11 - James Galway, flute, Hill Auditorium.
- 8 p.m. Friday, March 12 - Abbey Lincoln with Marc Cory, piano, Michael Bowie, bass, Alvester Garnett, drums, Michigan Theatre.
- 8 p.m. Thursday, March 18 - Tenebris Quartet, Rackham Auditorium.
- 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 19-20, 4 p.m. Sunday, March 21 - Avin Alley American Dance Theatre, Power Center.
- 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 24 - The Tallis Scholars, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church.
- 8 p.m. Thursday, March 25 - Gypsy Caravan, Gypsy Culture from India to Eastern Europe and Iberia, Michigan Theatre.
- 8 p.m. Friday, March 26 - Sweet Honey in the Rock, Hill Auditorium.
- 8 p.m. Sunday, March 28 - American String Quartet, Rackham Auditorium.
- 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 30 - Trio Fonteyne, Rackham Auditorium.

April

- 4 p.m. Saturday, April 10 - Steve Reich Ensemble, Michigan Theatre.
- 8 p.m. Thursday, April 15 - Mozarteum Orchestra of Salzburg, Hill Auditorium.
- 8 p.m. Saturday, April 17 - Eva Podles, contralto, Jerzy Marchewski, piano, Lydia Mendelsohn Theatre.
- 8 p.m. Sunday, April 18 - Ananyus 4 and Lionheart, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church.
- 8 p.m. Thursday, April 22 - Monstrous of Grace (version 1.0) A Digital Opera in 3 Dimensions, Michigan Theatre.
- 8 p.m. Friday, April 23 - Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, "A Centennial Celebration of Duke Ellington," Hill Auditorium.
- 4 p.m. Sunday, April 25 - NKK Symphony Orchestra of Tokyo, Hill Auditorium.