STREET SCENE

Q' concert puts focus on young talent, mystery guest

Susan Calloway is bound and determined to get her music to radio. So much so that she's focused her entire effort on it.

The stuff we're doing is garred toward mainstream radio. It's one of those things where we went to radio first. We're trying to gear it that way and so far we've had a lot of label interest," said Calloway, a Southfield native.

interest," said Calloway, a South-field native.
Her direction is thanks in part to producer/engineer Gerard Smerek of Farmington Hills who has also worked with Anita Baker and Aretha Franklin. He is currently in New York mixing the CD based on the VH1 "Divas" succial.

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"Divas" special.

"Ho's been kind of helping me develop a new project," Calloway said. His help also includes getting major label representatives to listen to her music.

Part of her vision is to play out only once a month with her band — Joe Lambert, Todd Glass, Jeff Yoods and Brett Lucas. The one gig-a-month plan is contrary to what she did with her former band, the roots rock outfit Red C.

"I've done a lot of shows opening for national acts, doing stuff with Ritual (a local booking agency), and the Magic Bag (in Frandele). I'm not going to play every icky bar in the city," said Calloway, who recently opened for Paula Cole and Holly Cole.

Her August gig is the "Q95

ence," she said before quickly stressing that her sound is band based.

The market is so flooded with female singer/songwriters. That's so difficult. I love the whole Lilith Fair rack, but the music seems to be centered around (the individual singers). My music is centered around a live band. These guys are not just hired hands," she explained.

"When I played with Paula Cole it seemed really obvious that her band was just hired hands. I want my shows to be a little different than that. It's my baby, but I'm treating it as more of a band sound."

Galloway said that her solo project offers her more freedom and happiness — than her work with the multi-Detroit Music Award-winning band Red C.

"Red C was more of a democracy with three songwriters and three singers. You want it (a project) to have focus. With Red C there was too much talent, and too much going on," she explained.

One thing that remains, how-

too much going on, sne explained.
One thing that remains, how-ever, is her dedication to Michi-gan and the Midwest.
"We're definitely trying to break this out of the Midwest. If we do get some kind of deal and break it out of here, it makes

Edwin McCain

The last time South Carolina. singer/songwriter Edwin McCain came to Detroit he was up against the toughest competition – the last game of the Stanley

against the toughest competition

- the last game of the Stanley
Cup fisals.

"It was fantastic," he said of
his show at St. Andrew's Hall in
Detroit. "We had a big crowd,
especially considering the Wings
McCain, an avid hockey fan,
showed his support for the
Wings. Was it to win over the
Crowd? He'll never tell.

"I came on stage with a broom
and wore a jersey all night long,"
he said with a chuckle.

McCain doesn't need to win
anybody over now. His single, the
lullaby-like ballad "I'll Be," has
risen up the charts. Displays
assembled by his label
Lava/Atlantic Records asked
young lovers to make it "their
song."

McCain wrote the song for a
now-former girlfriend.

"I keep my attachments down
to a minimum so that I don't
have anything that I miss," he
said.

It was that song, during which
McCain sings "I'll be

said.
It was that song, during which
McCain sings "I'll be
captivated/I'll hang from your

lips/Instead of the gallows of heartache that hang from above," that inspired him to write the rest of his sophomore effort Misguided Roses."

Suffering from writer's block, McCain wrote the song after going to "Chapel Hill trying to retrace some of my steps to find the thing that helps me write the songs and there it was."

Unlike his debut album, "Honor Among Thieves," McCain is accompanied by an electric guitar on "Misguided Roses."

"Jiust think the songs kind of lent themselves to experimenting with different sounds. We found the right player in fguitarist) Larry Chaney and tproduce? Kenny Greenberg, the two guys that played electric on the record," he explained.

"We really did find people who could approach electric guitar from the songwriting perspective, as opposed to just throwing electric guitar into a song. They

were really approaching it as what would be most appropriate."

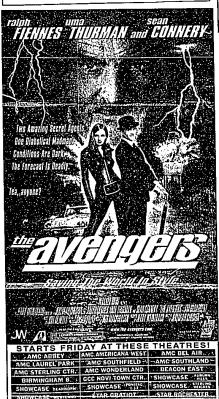
Although "Honor Among' Although "Honor Among' Thieves" spawned the hit "Soli-tude," on which he duets with Darius Rucker of the planinum selling act Hootie and the Blow-ish, McCain is happy with what, "Misguided Roses" has brought, him.

"Misguided Roses" has broughthim.

"It's definitely a relief to be
able to have your second album
be successful. You know the
sophomore jinx and everything.
It's just nice to know I'll be making records for awhile.

"Q95 Concert for a Cure" feat
turing Edwin McCain, Sucan,
Calloway, Stewart Francke, and;
a special guest, begins at 2 p.m.,
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