

STREET SCENE

Tiles celebrates release of 'Presents of Mind'

BY CHRISTINA PUOCO
STAFF WRITER

Chris Herin's voice barely raises above a whisper when he talks about working with legendary progressive rock producer/engineer Terry Brown.

It's somewhat surprising, given that some of Herin's earliest musical influences were King Crimson, Yes, Kansas, Jethro Tull and the band with whom Brown worked the most, Rush.

Just like his demeanor, Herin explained he managed to stay calm and cool during the mixing of "Presents of Mind" (Magna Carta), the latest album from his band Tiles.

"It was exciting, that's for sure. I guess the only thing that tempers the situation is the fact that you're there to work on your project or you're there to play your instruments. You can't be too excited and goofy about it and blow your opportunity, so to speak," said Herin, Tiles' guitarist.

"These guys have been around for awhile. You don't want to cross that line from your working relationship into too much of a fan aspect. You want to be courteous and respectful. I'm sure they definitely enjoy hearing the influence."

Brown's influence fills "Presents of Mind," the third album for the Downriver-based band. The first two albums, "Tiles" and "Fence the Clear" were by-the-book prog rock. But Herin explained the band took a few liberties with "Presents of Mind."

"We consciously stepped away from the philosophy we used on 'Fence the Clear,' which was to stay a little truer to our live reputation and not do so many overdubs. In theory, it isn't bad. We just thought in hindsight that songs of the songs were a little sparse in the arrangement area," explained Herin, who's in his "mid-30s."

"When we started to work on 'Presents of Mind,' we figured the CD will probably outlast the band so there's no sense in putting everything into it. That's where you probably hear a lot more backing vocals, more keyboards for background and texture, and lots of different acoustic instruments."

While recording at Stages Recording Studio, which recently moved from Novi to South Lyon, Herin took on mandolin, banjo, and "lots of different kinds of acoustic guitars."

When the recording was finished, Herin took the tapes to Brown's studio, Town Music

Studios, in Toronto where he mixed the record. Production wrapped up in late October.

"Presents of Mind" is Tiles' first album for Magna Carta Records, a prog rock label based in New York. The label released the album overseas first, offering it in Europe in February, South America and Argentina in March, and Japan in April.

Herin explained that Tiles doesn't have a big following in other countries but "it keeps us in business."

"We've done about 4,000 in Europe," he said of sales of previous albums. "We've had a real good radio response in Europe. We've done lots of on-air interviews. They play a bunch of the songs, so I think that's really helped make a difference."

The United States has been slow to pick up on Tiles for several reasons, Herin explained.

"We haven't had a bad response here. The music that we play is somewhat more underground than what you hear on the radio. There's just so much music. We're competing with every single band that exists including all major-label bands. Classic rock stations don't play anything new, that type of thing."

"As a genre, progressive hard



Celebrating release: The prog rock band Tiles celebrates the release of its new album, "Presents of Mind" with a performance Saturday, July 17, at Magic Bag in Ferndale.

rock-type stuff is underground except for Dream Theater. There are definitely some bands like that that are kind of mainstream. We straddle that line between regular hard rock and

maybe some of the more progressive stuff."

"Tiles celebrates the release of "Presents of Mind" with a party and performance Saturday, July 17, at the Magic Bag, 22920

Woodward Ave., Ferndale. There is a cover charge for the 18 and older show. Doors open at 8 p.m. For more information, call (248) 544-3030 or visit <http://www.themagicbag.com>

BIRMINGHAM JAZZFEST RESTAURANT ENTERTAINMENT

Here is the schedule for groups playing at restaurants in downtown Birmingham during JazzFest. See related story on Entertainment front.

Thursday-Saturday, July 22-24
Bad Frog Tavern — 555 Old Woodward, (248) 642-9400

■ 9 p.m.-midnight, Thursday — Soul Mechanix

■ 9 p.m.-midnight, Friday — Kristyn Smith & Blackstone

■ 9 p.m.-midnight, Saturday — The Notebenders

Bates Street Cafe — 380 S. Bates, (248) 644-5832

■ 9 p.m.-midnight, Thurs.-Sat. — Charles & Gwen Scales

Big Rock Chop & Brewhouse — 245 S. Eaton, (248) 647-7774

■ 8 p.m. & midnight, Thursday-Sat. — Larry Nozoro

■ 6:30 & 10:30 p.m., Thursday-Sat. — The Warren Commission

Dick O'Dows — 160 Maple, (248) 642-1135

■ 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Thurs-

day — Mock Jazz Trio

■ 8:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Friday — Dan's Cats and Friends

Edison's — 220 Merrill Street, (248) 645-2150

■ 8:30 p.m.-midnight, Thursday — Mark Moultrup Trio

■ 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Friday — Rob Pippo Jump-Swing Quartet

■ 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Saturday — Dwight Adams Quartet

Forta — 201 Old Woodward, (248) 594-7300

■ 9 p.m.-1 p.m. Thursday-Saturday — Ursula Walker & Buddy Budson

Max & Erma's — 250 Merrill Street, (248) 258-1188

■ 9 p.m.-midnight Thursday-Saturday — Tim Flaherty Trio

Midtown Cafe — 139 Woodward, (248) 642-1133

■ 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Thursday-Saturday — Dee Dee McNeil Trio

Ocean Grille — 280 Old Woodward, (248) 646-7001

■ 7-11 p.m. Friday & Saturday — Phillip Ogletre Jazz Trio

Penbody's — 34965 Woodward, (248) 644-5222

■ 9 p.m.-midnight Friday & Saturday — Paint Creek Jazz

Phoenixia — 588 Old Woodward, (248) 644-3122

■ Thursday-Saturday — Bob Tye Townsend Hotel — 100 Townsend, (248) 642-7900

■ 8:30 p.m.-midnight Thursday-

Saturday — Kurt Kunz & Keith Malinowski

220 — 220 Merrill Street, (248) 645-2150

■ 8 p.m.-midnight Thursday — Paul Vorn Hagen

■ 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Friday — Paul Vorn Hagen

■ 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Saturday — Bill Held

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Visitors to Greenfield Village in Dearborn can stretch their visit Saturdays in July in August with Summer Evenings. As part of their annual Summer Festival program, Greenfield Village will present Summer Evenings 5-8 p.m. on Saturdays during the summer months. Visitors can enjoy a relaxing evening and take a stroll around the grounds while, enjoying the cooler temperatures and seeing the village under twilight skies.

Families will gather around the Village Green and experience the "Village Community" much

like the way townsfolk gathered in the evenings in times gone by to exchange news and socialize. Arrive after 3 p.m. on Saturdays and purchase tickets at the reduced price of \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5-12, under 5 and members free.

For more information call (313) 271-1620, or www.hfnigv.org on the Web.

Greenfield Village is on Oakwood Boulevard and Village Road in Dearborn, Michigan, just west of the Southfield Freeway (M-39) and south of Michigan Avenue (U.S. 12).

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