

Musicians lend a hand to Thanksgiving parade

BY CHRISTINA FUGIO
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Just call him the house band of radio station WPLT (The Planet, 96.3). Singer/songwriter Duncan Sheik has played two "Holiday Hoofers" shows and one "Pinnaclefest" concert, and he's returning once again to play "Light Up Detroit" this Friday.

"I just always have a really good time playing their radio shows and they're always being really supportive of me. It's just the right kind of radio station for what I'm doing," Sheik said via telephone from Boston, Mass.

"Light Up Detroit," which begins at 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13, at the State Theatre, is a benefit for The Parade Company, producers of America's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Hooverphonic, Jiff Jack and Surfin' Pluto are also scheduled to perform.

Outside of the State Theatre, music fans at the show can get a sneak preview of two floats, including WPLT's "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" float, and two balloons.

New album

Sheik's appearance at "Light Up Detroit" is his first visit since the release of his sophomore effort, "Humming," on Oct.



Helping Detroit: Surfin' Pluto joins Duncan Sheik, Hooverphonic and Jiff Jack to play the "Light Up Detroit" benefit for The Parade Company on Friday, Nov. 13, at the State Theatre.

6. "Humming," he said, is more of a "band" effort. His self-titled, gold-certified debut was recorded with hired hands, while "Humming" was a collaborative effort with members of his touring band. Because he had been on the road so long, he and his bandmates were able to rehearse the songs as necessary.

His band includes Matt Johnson, who played drums for the late Jeff Buckley, and percussionist Juliet Prater of Michigan.

On "Humming," Sheik pays tribute to Buckley in the somber "A Body Goes Down."

For "Humming," Sheik once again tapped Rupert Hine as producer but recorded in a different location. Instead of recording at Hine's chateau in France as they did for "Duncan Sheik," the duo headed to El Cortijo, a studio in Andalusia, Spain, that Hine is a partner in.

"We were in Southern Spain in the summertime, as opposed to northern France in the winter-

Who: Duncan Sheik, Hooverphonic, Jiff Jack and Surfin' Pluto

What: Perform as part of the "Light Up Detroit" concert

When: Doors open at 7 p.m. with 8 p.m. showtime on Friday, Nov. 13

Where: State Theatre, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit

Why: To benefit The Parade Company, producers of America's Thanksgiving Day Parade

How: Tickets are \$20 in advance and available at all Ticketmaster outlets. For more information, call (248) 645-6666 or visit <http://www.ticketmaster.com>

sounds with flutes, bass clarinets, The London Session Orchestra, bodhrans, Mexican six-string acoustic bass, and Moroccan strings recorded in Casablanca, Morocco.

"I like to move forward instead of concentrating on the past," he said. "I didn't really do anything to try to follow up 'Duncan Sheik.' That's the kiss of death. I had good luck with 'Barely Breathing.' Who knows if that will happen again."

More good luck

Playing major Detroit-area shows has become par for the course for the roots rock band Surfin' Pluto. Earlier this year, the band won the Midwest leg of the Kool Band-to-Band Contest allowing them to play the two H.O.R.D.E. Festival dates at Pine Knob this summer.

Surfin' Pluto also opened for Paul Rodgers, formerly of Bad Company, at Pine Knob, and played at the House of Blues in Chicago.

"It's been a fabulous year for us," said Chris Catallo, Surfin' Pluto keyboardist. The H.O.R.D.E. Festival was by far the most fun, according to Catallo, who lives in Rochester.

"We got the full treatment of truly being on the bill. We met just about everybody on the show. We got to play with the guys from Blues Traveler, sat in with the singer from the Spin Doctors (who was hosting the workshop stage), I sat in and played piano. We have horn players who do some gigs with

us, and they played the second stage with all the different acts."

It hasn't been an overnight success for Surfin' Pluto, however. The band - which also includes bassist Gene Catallo, drummer Brian Lancaster and guitarist Chuck Hart - formed four years ago. Lead singer/cussionist Michael Soucie came along shortly thereafter.

"It hasn't been quick at all," Catallo said with a laugh. "We've been playing around for years."

The Catallo brothers have been playing together since they were youngsters in Warren.

"Me and my brother used to goof around writing songs. I had a piano in my bedroom and we'd sit around and play music," he said.

The band is playing in support of its self-titled, hook-laden debut, recorded at Underground Productions in Warren with producer Kevin Hoveler of the country outfit The Clinton River Band.

"Kevin wanted a more natural feel. He just let us go ahead and play. We wouldn't know if he was tracking or not. The one thing that he emphasized was that we are a lot of fun live. That's what he wanted to capture in the studio."

Catallo explained that Surfin' Pluto started out as a heavier band but eventually leaned toward melodic rock.

"The hooky stuff really started growing up on us. It's fun playing it. This is definitely what we should be doing."

ART BEAT

Send items for consideration in Art Beat to Frank Provenzano, arts reporter for The Observer & Eccentric! Newspapers. He can be reached at (248) 901-2557, or at fprovenzano@eccehome.com.net

Or write to: The Eccentric! Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, 48009.

RADIO SHOW NAMES CONSULTANT

"Somewhere in Time," a Birmingham-based radio show dedicated to Big Band music, has appointed David J. Olen, M.D. as medical consultant for its Alzheimer's Research Project.

The study was pursued after program hosts Tom Wilson and Sarah Swanson noticed how Alzheimer's patients responded positively to the Big Band sounds.

FARMINGTON ARTISTS SHOW

The Farmington Artists Club hosts its fall exhibit and sale Thursday-Tuesday, Nov. 12-17, at the Spicer House in Heritage Park, 24915 Farmington Road (between 10 and 11 Mile roads).

The public is invited to an opening reception 6-9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13. Admission is free. Awards will be presented at 7 p.m. Viewing hours are 5-8 p.m. Thursday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Monday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday and Tuesday. For information, call (248) 646-3707.

The exhibition consists of three sections: a juried show, an open display of framed work, and a large selection of unframed art. Alan Cary, owner

of the Cary Gallery in Rochester, serves as juror for the show.

Farmington Artists Club members are from throughout the metropolitan area. They work in a wide variety of media including watercolor, oil, acrylic, pastel, colored pencil, mixed media, and collage.

ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW
The Farmington High School Football Backers sponsor its ninth annual arts and crafts show featuring 100 exhibitors 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14 at the high school, 32000 Shinnassee Road, west of Orchard Lake Road, north of Grand River.

Admission is \$2, children free. For more information, call (248) 478-2397.

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