'Uncut Detroit II' showcases blues, the Detroit way



Go ahead, call
Steve Schwartz
a die-hard
bluesman. He
won't mind.
"I was only 12
years old when I
heard this
music," said
Schwartz, a
A. CASOLA.
It took a hold of
me. This is all I listen to. It's
music from the heart, music
from the soul.
As guitarist for The Alligators,
he's one reason the Detroit blues
scene remains vital. It's that sort
of passion that keeps the blues
alive, even if it deean't get the
recognition it deserves. Schwartz
said Detroit blues has never

roally gotten its due. In the 1940s and 50s, people associated the blues with places like Chicago, not the Motor Gity - never mind Detroit legends like John Lee Hocker, whose influence is felt today. 'Detroit continues to influence music as a whole,' he said. 'There are a lot of great artists in the city util.'

A collection of six such artists can be heard on "Uncut Detroit II," a compliation recorded live last October at Henry Ford Community College's Pagoda Room. The Venture Records release is a follow-up to the 1997 "Uncut Detroit: Live Blues in the Night."

The CD benefits WHFR 89.3 FM, an independent, non-commercial radio station which supports emerging local talent. It features soulful blues by Priscil-



la Price and the Kenny Miller Band, Detroit's own "Queen of Blues" Alberta Adams, more modern sounds from Al Hill and The Love Bullers, and Mystery Train featuring guitarist Jim McCarty. All artists donated

their performances for "Uncut Detroit II."

Jo Ann Korczynska, blues director at the station, said she's "always been a really good friend" to locul music and the blues community. A coordinator

Yne Aliigators: Mark

Seyler, Dave Krammer, Steve Schwartz, Wailin' Dale and Pete Kiss play the blues

from the beginning, Korczynska is a firm believer in the idea that Detroit blues needs more recog-

is a firm believer in the idea that 'Detroit blues needs more recognition.'

We have a wonderful blues scene in Detroit, 'she said. The new CD reflects what's going on in and around the city. 'I was always looking for the most diversified look at the blues,' added Korzynaka. 'Every one of the artista's is completely different. That's what I like.'

Executive producer George Bednar came up with the idea to create a series of 'Uncut Detroit' CDs. He's a member of the foundation board at the college. 'Part of the purpose of the CD is to raise money for the station,' said Bednar, of Venture Records. 'I believe there's so much good talent in Detroit that doesan't get

the recognition they deserve nationally. This second CD has already gotten national distribution. We're getting requests from all over the country."

The money raised by the sale of the CD will fund future recording projects for the station. Alberta Adams said she thinks the CD came out beautifully. "Every where you go it's the blues. Blues done took over. "I'm thankful they picked me out," added Adams. "I tove what i do." And it shows, but Adams is only part of the story. "It gives you a nice feel for what's coming from Detroit, said Bednar.

Order "Uncut Detroit II" for \$10 by calling (313) \$845-9576, or buy it at area record stores including Harmony House.

Stroke 9 hits big with 'Little Black Backpack'

By Stephanie Angelyn Casola Staff Writer scasols@oe.homecomm.net

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Drummers. They don't often
get the attention they deserve.

Sometimes we just can't see
them behind that drum kit. But
Eric Stock isn't about to let anyons forget about him.

Not only is he responsible for
the heart-pounding back beats
that keep San Francisco-based
Stroke 9's songs soaring for the
top of the modern rock charts,
he's also got a sense of humor.

While on tour with vocalist
Luke Esterkyn, guitarist John
McDermott and bassist Greg
Gueldner — Stock gave us the
low-down on California's next big
thing:

DAE: How is the tour going?

Eric Stock: "It's going great.
This is the second month of this
outing. We're co-headlining. The
whole West Coast has been sold
out."

OAE: Little Black Bucknack."

whole West Coast has been sold out."

O&E: "Little Black Buckpack" is getting a lot of attention. Wow at number six on Billboard's Modern Rock Churts 10 poy feel it represents Stroke 9's sound?

Stock: "I think so, it's definitely one of the more unique songs, the time signature changes. The label definitely felt strong about it. It's pretty catchy, probably our best (song) live."

O&E: As the newest member of the band, how did it feel joining a group of high school friends?

Stock: "It was hell," he laughs.

friends?
Stock: "It was hell," he laughs.
"We had chemistry even before I
joined. I came in with the inside
jokes and obscure references
that would generally annoy anyone. It was meant to be, A lot of
bands have trouble on the rand.
It's hard enough to make this



Stroke 9

happen. It's nice knowing these guys have a good history togeth-

happen. It's nice knowing those guys have a good history together.

O&E: Do you pay much attention to the music charts?

Stock: 'We're psychos about that. Every week we call our manager to get the percentage. It's like little businessmen watching the atock market.'

O&E: Tell me about working with producers Jorry Harrison (The Verve Pipe) and Rupert Hine (Duncan Sheik), on the aboum 'Nasty Little Thoughts?

Stock: 'It was really cod working with Jerry — we originally wanted him to do the whole thing. He worked with Live. We did six songs with hin. So musically the stuff just exploders. He's got great ideas...Rupert had a whole different approach. It was more organic. He let us do our own thing even more.'

O&E: Do you have a favorite track on the album.

Stock: "Team Me In Two.' We twenked it. There's a little jam in the middle that bursts and explodes. It's something wadded, little ruggets, little treats for the people who come see us live.'

Get your treats, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27, St. Andrews Hall, Detroit. \$10. All ages. (248)645-6666. Check out www.stroke9.com.









