

STREET BEATS

Bill Shapiro: Music fan finds a 'home' on 'Cyprus Avenue'

By Larry O'Connor
staff writer

Bill Shapiro has turned a few corners in his musical journey, but "Cyprus Avenue" has become his permanent home on the radio. The show is heard 12:30 p.m. Fridays on WDET-FM 101.9. The program features a diverse mix of rock 'n' roll, from the classics of Neil Young and Bob Dylan to the new music of R.E.M. and Eleventh Dream Day. Its gravel-voiced host is a methodical archivist and a wide-eyed enthusiast. He educates without having his nose in the air about his knowledge. "I'm a fan," said Shapiro, 54, whose program is aired from KCUF-FM in Kansas City, Mo., via satellite to nearly 50 stations on the National Public Radio network. "I'm very passionate about music. When I'm moved by something, I really get into it. When someone comes up to me and says, 'Hey, you turned me on to

so-and-so,' that makes it all worthwhile." Though eclectic, a common thread can be detected in the stream of music Shapiro plays on "Cyprus Avenue." He prefers artists who have something honest to say rather than those who merely release a "pure product." Shapiro receives virtually no promotional releases from major labels. Instead, the tax lawyer by day relies on his own massive record collection, which was started with a 78 of a World War II trench duty. The first LP he brought, incidentally, was "Johnny Smith's Jazz at NBC." AT FIRST, Shapiro's musical interests were in pop. Then, in his teenage years, he developed an affinity for jazz. But it was a young Turk with swiveling hips from Tupelo, Miss., who turned Shapiro's sights to rock 'n' roll. The then-law student caught Elvis Presley's act on the "Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey Bandstand" show on television. His interests evolved to the revo-

lutionary sounds of nasal-voiced of Bob Dylan and later the Celtic soul stirrings of Van Morrison and the electrified poetry of Neil Young. But while music was a passion, it was never an occupation. Shapiro tried the piano and the banjo, but could pick neither. "I didn't have the aptitude for it," he said. And, until the debut of "Cyprus Avenue" 13 years ago, he had never worked in radio. That changed when a friend at the NPR station in Kansas City told Shapiro that if he ever needed a favor, he shouldn't hesitate to ask, in return for his constant fund-raising help for public broadcasting. "I told her, 'I'd like to do an intelligent show on rock 'n' roll,'" Shapiro said. "When I was a graduate law student in New York... I listened to Billy Taylor's radio show, which was an intelligent show on jazz. I thought it would work on rock." SHAPIRO DID an audition, taping a show called "Ballads by Rockers" that featured ballad music by arena rockers like the Rolling Stones. He

was invited back. "Cyprus Avenue" is the only rock 'n' roll show offered by NPR. The show is one of the most popular midweek programs in the WDET lineup. "I'm somewhat mystified by it," Shapiro said. "They moved the show to 12:30 p.m., which is a God-awful time to pick up a radio audience... I ascribe it to the sign that the listening audience enjoys WDET's eclectic mix of radio programming." Letters he receives cross all demographics, including notes of appreciation from 50- and 60-year-olds who until listening to "Cyprus Avenue" thought rock 'n' roll was just noisy racket. A majority of the response, though, lands in the 30-45 age range, Shapiro said. The show is definitely a labor of love, especially to Shapiro's wallet. He sometimes pays \$200 a month out of his own pocket for the satellite uplink. He's toyed with the idea of taking "Cyprus Avenue" to commercial radio, but admits it's difficult marketing a rock 'n' roll program.

Dark Carnival: Creative retreat

By Larry O'Connor
staff writer

Dark Carnival is something of an all-star rock 'n' roll conglomerate. But for the band's creator Colonial Galaxy, it was a nightmare. The genesis of the metallic sounding group was a dream. The good Colonial remembers a bad dream, one in which he walked into a carnival and found himself trapped inside a freak show. While most would chalk up the experience to some Freudian malfunction or too many Oreo cookies before bedtime, the Colonial used the vision to form a band. Since 1984, Dark Carnival has carried on the punk traditions fostered by Detroit's forebears with a line-up that's continually evolving. Previous members read like a who's who of Detroit rock 'n' roll, including ex-Mutant Art Lyzak and Bootsey X. Current members of Dark Carnival include Ron and Scott Ashton from the Stooges, bassist Greasy Carlini from the Reputations, rhythm guitarist Mark Gilder and, of course, leopard striped singer and astrologist Niagara. Hrrr. "We could only stand each other for a short time," said Niagara with a laugh, explaining the turnover in personnel. "Actually, I really like it. We all get along really well. Nobody tries to steal the scene. Which is an admirable feat, considering the abundance of talent confined in one group. Like their name, Dark Carnival performs with the same frequency that a midway visits a small village.

SEEING THE SHOW

Who Dark Carnival with author Jim Carroll
Where Club Heidelberg
215 N. Main, Ann Arbor
Phone 994-3562
When Saturday, April 20. Show starts at 10 p.m. Tickets are \$9.50 in advance

THE BAND was intended to be something of a creative retreat for members. As a result, live shows have been few. Yet, Dark Carnival has still managed to record two live albums, "Greatest Show in Detroit" and "Welcome to Show Business" on Revenge Records in France. Dark Carnival, along with all Detroit rock 'n' roll, has a large following among the Francophones. Stateside, the live LPs are important only and hard to come by. "People seem to have copies around here," said Niagara, who fronted the startling punk outfit Destroy All Monsters. "I don't know how they're getting them." The unavailability of Dark Carnival product should change the band will enter The Schoolhouse in Ann Arbor to record its first studio LP soon. The project will feature a conglomeration of songs the creative tandem of Niagara and Ron Ashton have recently constructed. She promises they'll be of the hard

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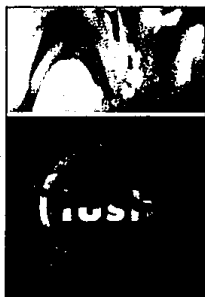


Clad in a tiger-striped body suit, Dark Carnival vocalist and astrologist Niagara likes the group's lineup because "we all get along really well."

REVIEWS

GALA

— Lush



At its best, this fashionable British quartet sets its aery tunes to a rolling beat, adrift in a sea of intertwining guitars, echoing feedback, angelic vocals and thunderous waves of rhythm. But often Lush's sonic ship docks itself in the port of monotony. Repeating two songs on this 13-track U.S. debut doesn't help to vary its sound, which is pretty much unchord to start with. This collection of Lush's earlier work on trendy British label 4AD is somewhat disjointed. But it displays the band's potential to make melodious mood music in the atmospheric vein of the their soulmates, Cocteau Twins. Parts of "Gala" were produced by Cocteau Twin Robin Guthrie, others by Tim Friesse-Greene of art-rock outfit Talk. "Gala" is at once slick and sandpaper, brooding and brash, inspired and indifferent. One minute Lush is riding on the sweet, candy-scented pop sounds of the pretty "Scarlet," and the next they're thrashing about in washed out guitars and flute-like vocals on the aptly titled "Leaves Me Cold."

— John Cortez

TAME YOURSELF — various artists

This is a compilation released by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) organization. All the artists involved are those with strong feeling on this subject and, for the most part, express themselves quite strongly in their material used on this album. It's quite a healthy list of participants, including Howard Jones, Indigo Girls, Michael Stipe, k.d. lang, B-52's, Prehensile, Jane Wollin, Belinda Carlisle and more. It's kicked off with the electro-funk-pop sound of Howard Jones, exhorting us "Don't be part of it," with lyrics like "save the butcher's knife" and "as long as animals die in testing, we won't find humanity." Jones' contribution is well-produced but fairly predictable. Next up comes a new band from Canada, Rave Youth. This is the track that has been receiving most airplay, with the video including most of the participants of the entire album. The song is "Tame Yourself" and is a bright, jaunty, acoustic guitar driven number with a duet of female vocals delivering a catchy chorus. This leads into one of the best songs on the album, "I'll Give You My Skin," with Michael Stipe joining with Indigo Girls. It's rich in lyrical imagery and vocal strength from all parties involved. It also features some subtle acoustic guitar playing from the Girls. What keeps this song



apart from the others is imagination used to convey the message as opposed to the beat it down the throat mentality of some involved here. k.d. lang steps up next with "Dammed Old Dog," which features the intriguing chorus of "Do I wanna be a dog, any dittin' male will do. If I was a damned old dog, I wouldn't be fussy for you." Now, along come two well-known, outrageous and well-known for being outrageous females — Germany's Nina Hagen and Dearborn's Lene Lovgren. Their song is an electro dance number which features the staged soundtrack of one of the PETA specialists breaking into experimentation labs to free the animals. Pity about the song, though. Then, (be still my beating heart), comes everybody's favorite (?), Jane Wollin. She sings "Fun," the second best song on the album. In all, not a bad effort though, with the majority of songs being worthwhile hearing.

— Cormac Wright

IN CONCERT

- **TANIA TIKARAN**
Tania Tikaran will perform Monday, April 15, at Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. For information, call 961-MELT.
- **JOAN CRAWFORD & PARADISE VALLEY JAZZ JAM**
Joan Crawford & the Paradise Valley Jazz Jam will perform Monday, April 15, at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, across from WSU, Detroit. For information, call 832-2355.
- **WILD KINGDOM**
Wild Kingdom will perform Monday, April 15, at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.
- **THE GENERALS**
The Generals will perform Tuesday, April 16, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.
- **PHISH**
Phish will perform with guests, Ryth McFeud, Tuesday, April 16, at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.
- **INCURABLES**
The Incubables will perform Tuesday, April 16, at The Vault, Eight Mile Road, near I-75, Hazel Park. For information, call 545-7660.
- **THE WAITERS**
The Waiters will perform with guests, The Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band, Wednesday, April 17, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.
- **FIRST LIGHT**
First Light will perform Wednesday and Thursday, April 17-18, at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.
- **RAILROAD JERK**
Railroad Jerk will perform with guests, N.L. Mule, Thursday, April 18, at Club Heidelberg, 215 N. Main, Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$4. For information, call 994-3562.
- **CULTURE BANDITS**
Culture Bandits will perform Thursday, April 18, at The Vault, Eight Mile Road, near I-75, Hazel Park. For information, call 545-7660.
- **BENEFIT**
JOA Blues Band, Garfield Blues Band and Green Fields will all perform Thursday, April 18, at Sully's, Greenfield, north of Michigan Avenue, Dearborn. Tickets are \$22 at the door with proceeds benefiting the family of newspaper columnist Shelby Strubher, who died March 9 of cancer. For information, call 446-3377.
- **POP WILL EAT ITSELF**
Pop Will Eat Itself will perform Thursday, April 18, at Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. For information, call 961-MELT.
- **REPTILES**
Reptiles will perform with guests Seraphim Thursday, April 18, at 3D Club, 1815 N. Main, north of 12 Mile, Royal Oak. For information, call 589-3344.
- **S.R.P.**
S.R.P. will perform Thursday, April 18, at Elbow Nightclub, 16350 Harper, Detroit. For information, call 884-4210.
- **DON'T LOOK NOW JUG BAND**
Don't Look Now Jug Band will perform with Kuru and Plasma Bat Thursday, April 18, at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, across from WSU, Detroit. For information, call 832-2355.
- **ASSEMBLY REQUIRED**
Assembly Required will perform Thursday, April 18, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.
- **THE TOLL**
The Toll will perform with guests, Haandah, Friday, April 19, at Rick's Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-2747.
- **RUBBER**
Rubber will perform Friday, April 19, at the Majestic Theatre Centre, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. For information, call 953-9700.
- **ROBERT PENN**
Robert Penn will perform Friday and Saturday, April 19-20, at Moby Dicks.
- 5452 Schaefer, Dearborn. For information, call 581-3650.
- **FRANK ALLISON & THE ODD BOX**
Frank Allison & the Odd Box will perform Friday, April 19, at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, across from WSU, Detroit. For information, call 832-2355.
- **SHEILA LANDIS & HER QUARTET**
Sheila Landis & Her Quartet will perform Friday and Saturday, April 19-20, at Bird of Paradise, 207 S. Ashley, Ann Arbor. For information, call 682-8310.
- **SKELETEENS**
Skeletons will perform with Euthanasia and Black Spring Friday, April 19, at Finney's Pub, 3965 Woodward, near Alexander, Detroit. For information, call 831-8070.
- **KMFDM**
KMFDM will perform with guests, Musosini Headkick, Friday, April 19, at the Latin Quarter, 3097 E. Grand, Detroit. Tickets are \$11.50 in advance. Members of KMFDM will have an in-store autograph session 4 p.m. Friday, April 19, at Sam's Jams, Plymouth Road, just west of Middlebelt, Livonia. For information, 99-MUSIC.
- **SOUTHSIDE DENNY**
Southside Denny will perform Friday and Saturday, April 19-20, at the Other End Lounge, 5455 Monroe, Taylor. For information, call 278-5340.
- **CAPTAIN DAVE & THE PSYCHEDELIC LOUNGE CATS**
Captain Dave & the Psychedelic Lounge Cats will perform Friday, April 19, at the Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. For information, call 996-8555.
- **HARMONICA SHAH**
Harmonica Shah will perform Saturday, April 19, at Elwood Bar & Grill, 2100 Woodward, Detroit. For information, call 961-7485.
- **TRAGICALLY HIP**
Tragically Hip will perform Friday, April 19, at Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. For information, call 961-MELT.
- **TREMOR REVIEW**
Tremor Review will take place Friday and Saturday, April 19-20, at Lili's, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. For information, call 875-6555.
- **JIM CARROLL/DARK CARNIVAL**
Author and singer Jim Carroll and Kim Hunter will appear at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 20, at Club Heidelberg, 215 N. Main, Ann Arbor. Carroll, author of "The Basketball Diaries," will read after Hunter performs. Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$7.50 at the door. Carroll will also read before Dark Carnival (featuring Ron and Scott Ashton of The Stooges) performs at a special late show 10:30 p.m. Tickets are \$9.50 in advance, \$12 at the door. For information, call 994-3562.
- **RHYTHM CORPS**
Rhythm Corps will perform an acoustic concert 2 p.m. Saturday, April 20, at Sam's Jams, 279 W. Nine Mile, Ferndale. The band will also be autographing new copies of its latest LP, "The Future's Not What it Used to Be." For information, call 545-3440.
- **OCTOBER**
October will perform with guests, Love Kings, Saturday, April 20, at 3D Club, 1815 N. Main, north of 12 Mile, Royal Oak. For information, call 589-3344.
- **THE BLANKS**
The blanks will perform with Fumbouse Saturday, April 20, at the Majestic Theatre Centre, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. For information, call 953-9700.
- **WRATH OF CHRISTIAN**
Wrath of Christian will perform with Kunstoff 23 Saturday, April 20, at Finney's Pub, 3965 Woodward, near Alexander, Detroit. For information, call 831-8070.
- **GOOBER & THE PEAS**
Goobar & the Peas will perform Saturday, April 20, at Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. For information, call 961-MELT.
- **BUGS BEDDOW**
Bugs Beddow will perform Saturday, April 20, at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, across from WSU, Detroit. For information, call 832-2355.



Robert Penn will perform Friday and Saturday, April 19-20, at Moby Dicks, in Dearborn.

LOCAL

Here are the top-10 songs on "Detroit Music Scene," which is heard 4-5 p.m. Sundays on WDET-FM 90.9

1. "Where's It?" Girls
2. "If I Run," Generals
3. "Everyday is a Holiday," Dave Rave
4. "The Seed," David Brian
5. "The Lemming," Son of Sam
6. "Living Without You," Joey Harlow
7. "Night in Berlin," Park the Karma
8. "Buy Me a Goose," Thrifty Italy
9. "My Dragon," Thrifty Forest Animals
10. "Treat Me Right," Detroit Blues Band

CUTTING EDGE

Here are "10 albums in medium rotation on 'The Cutting Edge,' which is heard 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. nightly.

1. "Ink," The Flux
2. "Havana 3 a.m.," Havana 3 a.m.
3. "The Purgative Dance," Spooner
4. "Struck by Lightning," Graham Parker
5. "Fly Me Courageous," Drivin' N' Cryin'
6. "Nowhere," R.E.M.
7. "The L.A.," The L.A.
8. "Uncle Anesthesia," Screaming Trees
9. "Green Mind," Discosaur Jr.
10. "The Real Ramona," Throwing Muses