

# StreetSCENE

## IN CONCERT

### Opaque keeps strings attached to music

**PARADISE VALLEY JAZZ JAM SESSION**  
Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit.  
832-2355.

**MATERIAL ISSUE**  
With DADA at Blind Pig, 208 First St., Ann Arbor. (alternative pop)  
996-8555

Tuesday, Jan. 19

**ANDREW CALHOUN & KAT EGGLESTON**  
The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. (folk)  
761-1451

**MARY MCCOURE & MYK RISE**  
Mr. B's Farm, 24555 Novi Road, Novi. (acoustic rock)  
349-7038

**CHISEL BROS. FEATURING THORNETTA DAVIS**  
And Blues Jam Session at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit.  
832-2355.

**DAN'S BIG EGG**  
Blind Pig, 208-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor.  
996-8555.

Wednesday, Jan. 20

**OPEN STAGE NIGHT**  
The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main St., Ann Arbor.  
761-1451

**RED C**  
Rick's American Cafe, 611 Church, Ann Arbor. (roots rock)  
996-2747

**STONEHEAD**  
Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac.  
334-9292

**EXIT ZERO**  
Blind Pig, 208-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor.  
996-8555.

Thursday, Jan. 21

**DEADBEAT SOCIETY**  
The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. (bluesgrass)  
761-1451

**MISSUS INDIARY**  
With Volunteer at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. (alternative)  
334-9292

**DEPARTMENT 10**  
With Dead Professor and Black Dog at Paycheck's Lounge, 2932 Caniff, Hamtramck.  
874-0909

**THE MIND**  
3-D, 1815 N. Main, Royal Oak. (alternative rock)  
589-3344.

**JOHN D. LAMB**  
Gotham City Cafe, 2284B Woodward, Ferndale. (acoustic)  
398-7430

**MYK RISE AND MARY MCCOURE**  
Hoop's in Auburn Hills. (acoustic rock)  
373-4744

**C.Y. BUTCHER**  
With Dan Kuczek at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit.  
832-2355.

**VUDDI HIPPIES**  
With Boyed Zero at Blind Pig, 208-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. (alternative rock)  
996-8555.

**THE INCURABLES**  
Offshore Club, Wyandotte. (rock)  
374-2450

Friday, Jan. 22

**BLUENATION**  
With Painted Glass at The Ritz, 10 1/2 and Gratiot, Roseville. (alternative rock)  
778-9150.

**DADDY STITCH**  
Tape release party at The Burns Room in St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit.  
961-MELT

**THE RFD BOYS**  
The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. (bluesgrass, swing)  
761-1451

**THE BUSTER WILLIAMS TRIO**  
With pianist Stephen Scott and drummer Carl Allen at Blind Paradise, 207 S. Ashley, Ann Arbor. (jazz)  
662-8310

**THE 27TH CITY**  
With Touch Freak and Notiv Rage at Lil's, 2930 Caniff, Hamtramck. (alternative)  
878-0555

**FORMOSA POP**  
With The Opaque at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. (alternative)  
334-9292

**STEVEN GORNALL & THE BLUE COLLAR BLUES BAND**  
Q Club, 29 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. (blues)  
334-7411

**BEYOND ZEBRA (TRIN-TONE ARTIST)**  
With Restroom Poets and Slugbug at Finney's Pub, 3965 Woodward Ave., Detroit.  
821-6070

**MOTHER SUPERIOR**  
With Machine Gunn Kelly and Slug at Paycheck's Lounge, 2932 Caniff, Hamtramck.  
874-0909

**PARK THE KARMA**  
Gotham City Cafe, 2284B Woodward, Ferndale. (pop)  
398-7430

**TERRY FARMER AND THE BEAD BAND**  
With Assembly Required at Blind Pig, 208-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor.  
996-8555.

**MARC FALCONBERRY**  
J.J.'s Pub & Grub, 32611 Ford Road, Garden City. (blues)  
522-9450.

**DETROIT BLUES BAND**  
Moby Dicks, 5452 Schaefer Road, Dearborn.  
581-3650

**KENNY MILLER**  
Attic Bar, 11667 Jos. Campau, Hamtramck. (blues)  
565-4194.

**JOE HUNTER**  
Big Fish, 700 Town Center Drive, Dearborn. (solo piano)  
338-6350.

**See IN CONCERT, 6B**



■ The Opaque honed its live skills at many low-profile Detroit-area shows. Six months later, it played the first of four Club X shows, cementing its future in the local music scene.

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO  
STAFF WRITER

Leather-jacket clad musician Jim Flynn no longer has to worry about being called names like "pansey violinist."

As a part of The Opaque, the much sought-after musician and his cohorts are quickly being recognized as Detroit's top up and coming band. That is, at least to some.

"There's the occasional nay-sayers who we quickly eliminate," said Flynn with a laugh.

"Sometimes we rub people the wrong way for what we're doing . . . I've been called every name (in the book) playing my instrument. Now I can get in their face and give it to them," he added.

Lead singer Dirk Schwarzhoff jokingly explained Flynn's frustrations further.

"Jim no longer feels the need to take steroids."

#### Flynn's playing

It's Flynn's violin playing that raised The Opaque's status within the local music scene. Throughout 1991 and 1992, the Dearborn resident spent time doing guest stints with bands like Rhythm Corps, Red C and The Hopo Orchestra — all with the intention of aiding The Opaque.

"I wanted us to be able to get into the market not from the outside because that would have been too difficult," Flynn explained.

This year, he plans on committing himself to The Opaque.

"I've had the pleasure of playing with other local and national acts. I've stopped doing that. There were reasons for that when I did it."

In the beginning, Schwarzhoff was gigging through Europe with the band Shock Therapy on its tour with Primus. Bassist/artist Mark Jordan Ristich and future drummer Scott Spellman were pursuing other projects. Upon Schwarzhoff's arrival home, Flynn, Ristich and Schwarzhoff — all University of Michigan-Dearborn students — and Spellman, of Orchard Lake, hooked up.

#### Integrated talents

Schwarzhoff and Flynn first worked together in 1988 in the band 2nd Order Thinking. The band saw the emergence of Schwarzhoff's guitar and vocal ability, and then-leader singer Flynn's electric violin, a custom

pickup mounted on his great-grandfather's 150-year-old violin. They integrated those talents, along with Spellman on drums, into The Opaque.

In early 1992, the group decided to hone its live skills by playing many low-profile Detroit-area shows. Six months later, The Opaque played its first of four Club X shows at the State Theatre. From an outsider's point of view, it seems as if The Opaque debuted at Club X. Schwarzhoff said that was the plan.

"It took a year of scheming to do that," the Dearborn resident said with a grin. "It wasn't that easy. We packed a lot of shows into the first few months."

The group now is planning to release its first tape "Wishlist" in about a month. The three-song release captures The Opaque's alternate rock sound elegantly laced with Flynn's aggressive violin playing, and Ristich's intelligent lyrics.

"I try to work in something of a narrative so that you can get characters that will say things sometimes you're afraid to say," said Ristich about his lyrics.

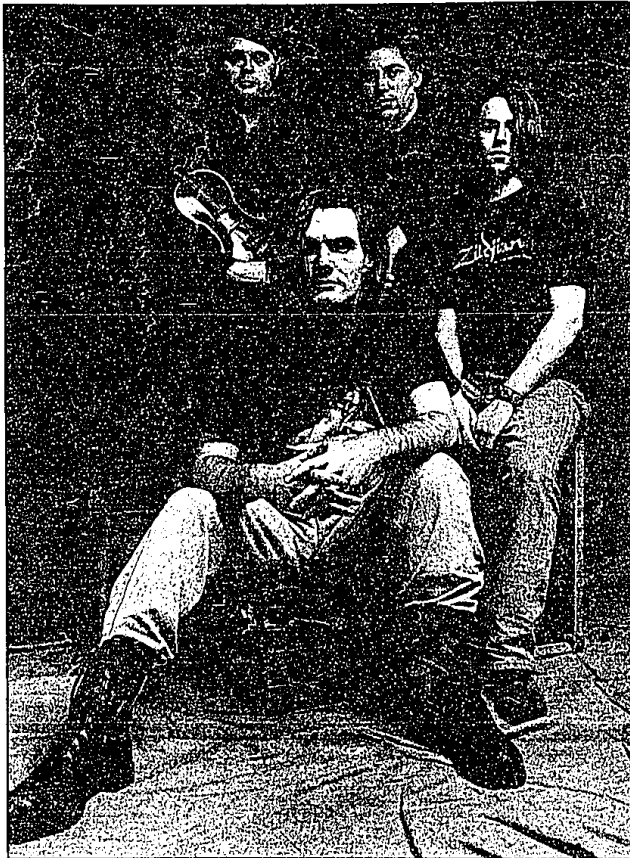
That, the Royal Oak resident said, lends honesty in The Opaque's work.

"I think when you do that for one thing you get honesty for the way you look at life. It can provide the person listening to it with something they can grab onto except for someone mulling about how terrible their life is."

The version of "Wishlist" available to the public may include a bonus track. The group's work is also included on the "Dream Catchers" and "Tremor" compilation CDs.

On the band's immediate "wishlist" is a record deal. Judging from the band's 1992 success it shouldn't be out of reach. The Opaque, who has opened for established alternative acts like Echo and the Bunnymen, won the Detroit Music Awards' "Best Video" prize for the video to the song "Kiss Goes Corrupt." The quartet has also applied to play at the prestigious South by Southwest music conference in Texas in March. The band, who recently played Chicago and Indianapolis, is also planning an East Coast tour for spring.

Flynn realizes that fans remember the band mostly because of him. He admittedly loves the attention, but loathes bands who



Well stringed: The Opaque — Jim Flynn (from left), Mark Jordan Ristich, Scott Spellman and Dirk Schwarzhoff (seated) — will play Griff's Grill in Pontiac Friday, Jan. 22.

use him as a "Band-Aid."

"It's been tricky, with other rock'n' roll formats. It's simply a Band-Aid. (In) this I'm doing my thing and everybody else is doing their part as opposed to a Band-Aid application which I really resent being used as."

It's that equality that makes this band in his career the most

worthy of attention, Flynn said.

"We've completely turned it upside and try to make sure we sounded like no one in Detroit or anyone else in the U.S.A." he added.

The Opaque performs with Formosa Pop at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. Call 334-9292

for more information. Other dates include the second night of the Mid-America Music Conference Friday, Feb. 5, at the Premier Nightclub, 33970 Van Dyke, Sterling Heights. Call 264-7827 for more information. Also Saturday, Feb. 6 at Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit, during the Dream Catchers benefit.

## Daddy Stitch pins its future to 'Fly South'

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO  
STAFF WRITER

The Sex Pistols may endorse "Anarchy in the U.K.," but Daddy Stitch members find democracy works fine for them.

"It's (run) this country for a couple hundred years. I guess it'll work for us," said Jarrod Wolny, guitarist.

Apparently it has. Utilizing

these democratic means, Daddy Stitch has just released their first tape, "Fly South." Instead of one or two members footing the bill for it, the group chose an even-keeled method. Daddy Stitch funded the tape entirely with the money earned from 20-30 shows.

The hard alternative rock band will celebrate the release with a performance on Friday, Jan. 22, in

the Burns Room in St. Andrew's Hall in Detroit. The show will bring Daddy Stitch a room closer to accomplishing its immediate goal.

"We're shootin' to play right here on this stage," said Wolny dragging on a cigarette under the dim light of the chilly, closed St. Andrew's Hall.

The business-minded group

doesn't expect to earn its money back. Daddy Stitch intends on selling only a limited number of the tapes. The rest will be sent to record companies with the hopes of landing a record deal.

"The purpose of the tape is a tool to garner recognition, not to make money," explained the group's burly lead singer Mike Apostolou.

So far, Daddy Stitch has received wide Detroit-area exposure by supporting national acts like Jesus Lizard. Apostolou hopes the band can expand on its opening act experience.

"We just want to play a good show with a compatible national band," said Apostolou citing The Pixies, Mudhoney and Dinosaur Jr. as examples. "We're confident of our music and I think we're ready to play on that level."

So confident that Apostolou is hoping to make Daddy Stitch his career.

"I can't speak for the whole band but I eat, sleep, live and breathe this. This is what I want to do. I don't want to go to school. I don't want to do nothing. I don't even want to work. I want to make it with this band," explained Apostolou who cites his mother his "biggest influence."

"We're not asking much," said Wolny with a laugh.

The majority of the group — which also consists of bassist David Bingham, drummer Shawn Grzyb, and guitarist Nick Fiori — are former members of Anti-Social Degenerates. After "five years of getting nowhere," according to Bingham, the group broke up.

Shortly afterward, they formed Daddy Stitch, a "hardcore" yet melodic band, Grzyb said.

"They got a lot of hooks, they're rough enough yet catchy enough," said Apostolou.

Through their songs and their lyrics — which concentrate on "dames and situations," Apostolou said — they hope to move audiences.

"What other medium is there that can move you like music? Books are the only thing that can compare to music," says Bingham. "You can buy a feeling on a tape."

Daddy Stitch holds a record release party Friday, Jan. 22, in the Burns Room at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Call 961-MELT for more information. Upcoming shows include Friday, Jan. 23, at The Ritz, 10 1/2 and Gratiot, in Roseville; with Loudhouse (778-6404) and Saturday, Feb. 6, at Paycheck's Lounge, 2932 Caniff, in Hamtramck, with Loose Stools (874-0909).

Daddy Stitch: Daddy Stitch is, from left, David Bingham, Mike Apostolou, and Jarrod Wolny; and, bottom row, Shawn Grzyb and Nick Fiori. They recently released the tape "Fly South."

