

READER'S

Concert: Peter Gabriel
Friday, July 2 at The
Palace of Auburn Hills
Review: Normally I don't

like arena concerts. Murky sound, seating too far away from the performer, emphasis on the "spectacle" instead of the music. Peter Gabriel's show at The Palace of Auburn Hills, though, was an exception. With his unique set-up, Gabriel was able to perform on a main stage as well as a runway leading to another stage in the middle of the main floor. This not only brought the show closer to most of the audience, it enabled him to bring a sense of drama to the concert. Gabriel played a mixed bag of old and new songs, with "Digging in the Dirt" and "Talk to Me" sounding good next to such stalwarts as "Solebury Hill" and "Games Without Frontiers." As usual, Gabriel closed his show with the moving "Biko," a song that always propels his audience happily out into the night wanting more.

By: Mark Phillips of Wayne

Album: 14 Songs (Sire-CD)
Artist: Paul Westerberg
Review: After the break-up of his band, his marriage, and a less than sober lifestyle, Paul Westerberg returns with his first full solo outing, after contributing to the "Singles" soundtrack. The former leader of the legendary Replacements, Westerberg pens his usual gems in his usual smart, soulful, and sarcastic manner. Particularly outstanding tracks include the single "World Class F**" and the gentle "Even Here We Are." Most people go to museums to see masterpieces. Much rarer, and more magical, are beautiful moments reflected by mirrored shards in out of the way places. Could it be that a newly sober, high school dropout from Minnesota is the greatest American songwriter since John Fogerty? Just because it doesn't seem likely, doesn't mean it's not true.

By: Steven Kaminski of Ferndale

MUSIC NOTES

Bon Jovi brought its "Sleep When I'm Dead" tour and attitude to Pine Knob July 27 - and none of them relaxed until the show was over. In 90-degree heat and dressed in flannel and/or jeans, the band combatted the humidity and kept themselves entertained while doing the same for the audience during its 2 1/2-hour show. Bon Jovi played hits off its latest release "Keep The Faith" while rehearsing old hits.

Unlike many other bands coming around for the second time this year, Bon Jovi managed to scale its arena set to the Pine Knob stage by bringing rows of lights and pyrotechnics to enhance the show.

The Almighty has found that during its first United States tour, alternative music is starting to lean toward metal.

"It's cool to us," said lead guitarist/vocalist Ricky Warwick. "We never set out to be one category."

Warwick said it's because kids are now more intelligent and open minded.

"All the hair spray bands really sing about are Fantasyland with Cadillac, women and liquor. Kids know life isn't like that. (Never bands) sing about things that they can really relate to," he said.

The group, touring to promote its album "Powertrippin'" will come to Harpo's in Detroit on Friday, Aug. 6. For more information, call 824-1700.

Kalamazoo-based The Verve Pipe won the regional finals of "Soundcheck - The Ticketmaster Yamaha Music Showcase" at Pine Knob Music Theatre on July 24. They competed against 17 Reasons Why of Detroit, The Rottweilers of Cincinnati, Oliver Syndrome of Indianapolis, Blackfish of Milwaukee, and Raining Lemmings of Minneapolis.

See NOTES, 7A



Back again: Jon Bon Jovi plays to the crowd at the New Jersey-based band's Pine Knob appearance July 27.

Duran Duran puts vivid in tour

■ The band MTV made? In the 1980s, Duran Duran zoomed to stardom with vivid, thought-provoking videos that aired on the cable rock channel. Now, the troupe has turned to an opera set designer for a "new look."

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

After setting a precedent with their vivid, thought-provoking videos, Duran Duran is hoping to duplicate that success by the spectacle of their summer tour.

"I'm definitely going to be on a whole new level," said keyboardist Nick Rhodes about the tour which hits Pine Knob Wednesday, Aug. 4. "I really think that we've managed to pull off something that we didn't think would be possible."

The interactive set was designed by opera set designer Stephanos Lazaridis.

"I went to see a couple of this guy's operas in England. I was so stunned that I wondered if he'd be interested in doing anything for us," Rhodes said.

It was a nice surprise — for both men.

"He was thrilled that we asked him to be involved; he's done the most extraordinary job of any rock set I've seen," Rhodes said.

He quickly corrected himself. "It's more like a Broadway set than a rock set," he said.

It's safe to assume that Rhodes is quite thrilled about this tour even though at the time of the interview, he had only seen the scale model.

"I'm a great music fan myself. It's incredibly spectacular if you see a good one. I'm really, really excited about the thought of this one," he said.

Aside from the set, a three-member string section will join the band, which also includes original members vocalist Simon LeBon and bassist John Taylor, as well as recent addition guitarist Warren Cuccurullo and touring drummer Fergus Fender.

The tour is to support Duran Duran's recent release, "Duran Duran." Although Duran Duran released an album with that name in



New view: Duran Duran — John Taylor (left), Nick Rhodes, Simon LeBon and Warren Cuccurullo — are turning to opera in a way to bring a new look to their concert tour.

the early 1980s, the group decided to name the album after a graphic artist designed the cover without being given a title.

After seeing the proof, the group realized there was no appropriate place for a title. So they left it off.

STREET BEATS

Plus, Rhodes said, there wasn't an apt title.

"No song (on the album) represented the whole of the record. It's so eclectic. Nothing showed what the record was about. After 12, 13 years it was time to re-establish the name," he said.

"Eclectic" certainly describes the album, which blends techno, Brazilian, pop, dance and acoustic music.

That, Rhodes said, was the result of recording in Cuccurullo's living room.

"It was a relaxed vibe, sitting on sofas," he said. "We hadn't really

used much before. We're keen to experimenting in different sounds."

So far, the album has spawned three different-sounding hits, "Ordinary World," "Come Undone," and "Too Much Information."

The third single, the first song on the album, is the most controversial or seemingly hypocritical of the organization that helped launch them. The opening lyrics are: "Destroyed by MTV I hate to bite the hand that feeds me too much information."

Rhodes said that's not the case. "It's not an indictment (of) MTV. The first thing I did when I got to New York was turn on MTV," he said. "The truth was MTV was very important to us. Early on, it helped make the band in America."

The song, which knocks news organizations as well, was actually inspired by the commercialization of the Gulf War, he said.

"It was inspired by the Gulf War being turned into our living rooms by cable networks. It was something

... reduced to like a TV game show almost. There wasn't any attention paid to the body bags, the misery and the destruction."

"It was just sort of glossed over."

Video, however, is what made Duran Duran the band of the 1980s. Since then, however, they've been unable to shake the associations with their early videos like "Rio."

"Everyone pictures us sitting on the front of a boat; that was one day of our lives."

He hopes the tour will change that.

"I think word will probably start spreading (once the tour starts). They'll have to come along and see," he said.

Duran Duran performs with special guest Terence Trent D'Arby at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 4, at Pine Knob Music Theatre, 1-75 and Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. Tickets are \$21.50 pavilion and \$12.50 lawn. For more information, call 377-0100.

Bosstones enjoy being mighty boss



Mighty sound: The Mighty Mighty Bosstones are Nate Albert, in sunglasses and baseball hat (from left), Ben Carr, Joe Sirosi, Dennis Brockenborough, Kevin Leneare, Joe Gittleman, Tim Burton and Dicky Barrett.

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

As a fledgling band, The Mighty Bosstones opened for established ska bands like Fishbone.

Now that they're headlining large venues, The Mighty Bosstones are offering local bands the same opportunities they had.

"We give the local bands a chance to open for us. We like to give that back," said the band's goateed dancer/backup vocalist Ben Carr.

This time around, the Bosstones have chosen Warren Cuccurullo. The Exceptions to open for them at Harpo's in Detroit on Saturday, Aug. 7, along with the Bosstones Mercury Records label mates Shooty Groove from the Bronx, N.Y. This will be the third time The Exceptions have opened for the Bosstones in the Detroit area.

"It's nice to see when a band makes it big, they still remember the little guys," said The Exceptions' trombone player Jim Hofer.

Members of Shooty Groove, who play a mix of rap and hard rock, are good friends with the Bosstones making touring even more boss for the bands.

"They're friends of ours. It's one of those kinds of bands that you generally would not see play with us," said bassist Joe Gittleman from his Boston-area home.

Choosing local acts to open up for them has also opened the band members' eyes to the talent in each city.

"It gives us an idea of what kind of bands are hot in the city. It puts us more in touch with each city," Carr said. "There's a lot of bands out there that are really good."

The Mighty Mighty Bosstones certainly understand since they were in both bands' shoes five years ago when they formed in Boston.

"We used to play in little clubs around Boston. It was just us and our friends. We didn't think it would become what it is but now that it is, wow."

That fame has given them the opportunity to sign with Mercury and star in commercials for fellow Boston establishment Converse shoes.

"It got embarrassing," said Carr. "Every time we turned on the TV, there were The Mighty Mighty Bos-

See BOSSTONES, 7A

Monday, Aug. 2

DAVID CROSBY AND GRAHAM NASH
With Shawn Colvin and Graham Parker at Pine Knob Music Theatre, 1-75 and Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. (acoustic) 377-0100

CLUTCH
With Ricochet, Bog Blast and Current at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. (hard alternative rock) 991-MELT

Tuesday, Aug. 3

SHIRLEY AND TOP DRAWER
Orion Township Civic Center Park, 2525 Joslyn Road, Lake Orion. (jazz) 333-7177

THE CLOCKWORKS
With The Melba at Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 996-5555

Wednesday, Aug. 4

DURAN DURAN
With Terence Trent D'Arby at Pine Knob

Thursday, Aug. 5

MUSIC THEATRE, 1-75 and Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. (pop) 377-0100

QUY CLARK
At St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. (hard alternative rock) 832-2355

THE DETERMINERS
With Bermuda Mohawk at Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. (alternative rock) 996-5555

VINCE GILL AND MARY-CHAPIN CARPENTER
Pine Knob Music Theatre, 1-75 and Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. (country) 377-0100

STRAITJACKET FITS
With The Bala at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E.

IN CONCERT

Congress, Detroit. (alternative) 961-MELT

"STOLI ROCKS TO RUSSIA!"
Something Wild, Nasty Jacks, Tyrone's Powerwheel, Jigsaw Jumbo and Red 7 compete at Legends, Congress, Detroit, for the chance to play in Russia. (rock) 334-9222

Thursday, Aug. 5

UNDERSTOW
With Nova Owens at Griff's Grill, 49 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. 334-9222

MOCKINGBIRD
Coach and Horses, 156 Chatham, Windsor, Canada. 427-9849

WE WISH WE KNEW
At St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. 832-2355

FRANK ALLISON
Performs along with Restroom Poets and Cathouse to support Ann Arbor Artists' Co-Op at Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. (alternative rock) 996-5555

Friday, Aug. 6

THE GRAYSON FARM
Release party for "Use To Your Lover" as part of "The Factory" at industry, 15 S. Sojourner, Pontiac, with guest D.J. D. Wynne and Mark McConnell. (alternative pop) 334-1999

THE EVELLY BROS. AND DION
Meadow Brook Music Festival on the campus of Oakland University at Walton and Squirrel roads, Rochester. (1990s rock) 356-7500

STATE THEATRE'S SUMMER SPLASH
Three reggae bands at the State Theatre.

See IN CONCERT, 8A