STREET SCENE

Don't 'Blink'; you'll want to see Monk perform Saturday



When Bill
Keith sent over
his own personal copy of
"Blink," the latest CD by Monk,
I knew it must
be something
special.

As the station

STEPHANIE

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Manager for Ply
mouth-Canton's

68.1 F.M., Keith wouldn't steer

music is concerned, especially

when it's music he feels strongly

about

about. Think one of the things that really stands out is the style of the mucic, as far as improvisation, said Keith of the Cincinnati-based band. Using words like phenomenal and original to describe the band piqued my curiosity even more. They are a three-piece band, just bass, guitar and drums. The sound is so dynamic. From jusz to rock to accustic.

oyname.

From jazz to rock to acoustic pop, Monk moves fluidly from one genre to the next. It didn't take much convincing; I had to hear more for myself, more from the voice behind Monk, Ric Hordinski.

The rich, lofty tone of Ric

Bill Hordinski's voice is the sort of sound that can set a stranger at ease within seconds, the sort of aphivating voice that leaves one wanted to hear more.

captivating voice that leaves one wanted to hear more.

The music he creates delivers the same effect. Yet, the singer-songwriter from Cincinnati, Ohio refuses to describe his sund, It's not surprising since his band, Monk, is known for It's everyolving, improvisational tone. Monk's latest CD., 'Blink', was released in the same spirit. Available on Flat Earth Records since in mid-July, it's a live compilation of music, runging from the atmospheric, to the ambient, and tinged with rock and roll. 'Blink' is a live recording and it's a collection of radio shows,' said Hordinski, in a phone interview from his Ohio recording studio. Because live performances were being recorded constantly, the band was unware of what it would find upon listening to the recordings. Hordinski said he was surprised with the material uncovered for the disc.

"I'm real happy with the way "Tattoo' came out and the spon-taneity of "Circle of Quiet was really fresh and genuine."

Beginning with Beatles

Beginning with Beatles
But long before he was making
his own music, Hordinski found
himself capitvated by the recond
layer. I've sav very interested in
music as a child, he said. My
earliest memories of music are
sitting by the 45 r.p.m. turntables playing my mottler's Beatles
record over and over again."

But the time he was 14

record over and over again."

By the time he was 14,
Hordinaki knew he would pursue
career in music. Though he
attended college, he left to
become a professional musician.
A job in the music industry led
to an opportunity for Hordinski
to see the world, which further
figued his interest in starting a
band. After achieving critical
acclaim as a founding member of
Over the Rhine, Hordinski eventually sought change and
growth.

growth.
"I had a certain kind of sound I was interested in producing," he said. "The band I was in before made it more and more difficult (to do that)."

"This Train" moves on

After making six records with Over the Rhine, and having per-formed live with Bob Dylan, The

and to begin a producing career.

Monk is about the freedom to experiment with ambient sounds and intimate ideas. Hordinski has welcomed contributors on all three Monk albums: including Ben Folds of Ben Folds Five and Dave LaBruyere of Shawn Mullins band. In 1988, Monk was noted on National Public Radio's Top 25 Essential Listening for the Echoes program.

"I kind of like to let it take its own course," Hordinski said of new material he's working on for Monk's fourth CD. "I know ti'll be very textural and I'm not really sure what specific direction it will take."

The name of the band has no

tion it will take."

The name of the band has no specific meaning, It conjures upingges of jazz great Thelonious Monk, whose music was criticized and misunderstood early in his career. Hordinaki said the name itself is "pretty romantic."

It suits the multiple textures and an essence of solitude which flows from the music.

By keeping an open mind and using improvisation, Hordinski

Samples, Johnny Cash and Moby, Hordinski left to pursue said, the songs dictate what an arrangement will be. Forming his own interests with Monk, and to begin a producing career. Monk is about the freedom to experiment with ambient sounds remains free of such limitations, and the sounds are successful to the sounds of the

remains free of such limitations.
"I am inspired by listening to
other musicians often," he
shared, "By hearing music of
another culture, and by knowing
the significance music has had
for people over the course of
thousands of years." He said he's
inspired to be a part of the tradition of making music, and the
sort of honesty music can hold.

Autobiographical

When writing songs, Hordinski said he's affected by whatever happens to be going on in his life at the time. "My songs are always pretty personal. There is generally some sort of first person perspective. I don't write story sone;

That ability to reveal personal aspects of his life through his music can be both therapeutic and inspirational. "Sometimes and inspirational. Sometimes writing a song is like the relief you feel when you get caught doing something wrong. It's out and everybody knows about it...Sometimes it's inspirational

"It's wide open," said Hordins-ki. "There's a lot of improvisa-tion. Every night's a different show."

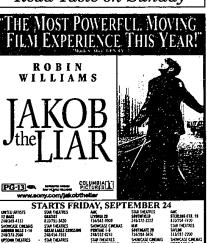
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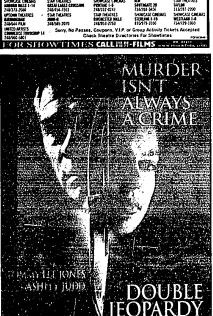
Monk commenced a tour of theMidwestern U.S. on Wednesday,
Sept. 22 and will reach Livonia
by Saturday, It won't be Hordinaki's first experience at Trinity
House Theatre; he played an
coustic set on his own on theTrinity stage once before. "It was
a nice atmosphere" he said "I'm
looking forward to coming back."

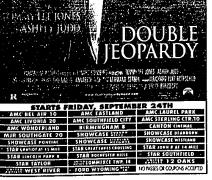
looking forward to coming back. Bill Keith, myself, and fans in the area are looking forward to seeing Ric, and Monk live at 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26 at Trinity House Theatre, 38840 West Six Mile Road, Livonia. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$8 for theater members and an be reserved (734) 464-502.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola rites about popular music for writes about popular music for the Observer & Eccentric News papers. She can be reached at (734) 953-2130 or e-mail at sca-

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