

# Skydiggers Soar at the Barn

(Mahones and Paul Macleod also entertain)

By Steve Ellis

The third day of UPEI's Winter Carnival went out with a bang as the Barn hosted an eclectic evening of entertainment. Paul MacLeod and the Mahones opened for the featured act--- the Skydiggers.

Paul MacLeod kicked off the evening with his cool acoustic guitar. His mellow tunes provided a relaxed, pub-like social atmosphere which was the perfect set up for the Mahones and their Celtic-rooted rock.

The Mahones are a high energy band from Kingston Ontario. Their musical style and performance is very much drawn from that of the Pogues, a British cult band that was extremely popular in the late eighties and early nineties. A great rhythm section, augmented by an amazing accordion and fiddle had everybody in the place kicking up their heels. The crowd was in high spirits as the Skydiggers took to the stage.

The Skydiggers also gave an impressive performance. They have an unadulterated, uncomplicated, guitar-rich sound which

is quickly becoming the definitive "Canadian sound". Other groups who exhibit this acoustic styling are Blue Rodeo, The Waltons and Hemingway Corner.

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What really intrigued me about the performance was the show that the lead singer put on. All I could see of him were tufts of wiry reddish-brown hair and his bushy beard because

he had a big black wide-brimmed hat covering his face for most of the set. He introduced many of his songs with spiels that reminded me of schizophrenic outbursts, which was definitely cool. His vocals had a lot of power, and his body language told you that he was really "feeling" what he was singing about.

This was my first experience with all three of the acts. I would have to say that even though the Skydiggers were the big name on the triple bill, I enjoyed the Mahones the best. Their music appeals to the Celt in me.

The night was very successful. Congratulations go out to Finley Martin, the Barn staff, and the Winter Carnival Committee for setting up such a great event.

## John Frusciante Niandra Lades and Usually Just A T-Shirt (American)

Weird. Sick. Beautiful. I'm not quite sure how to explain this one; but beautiful bits and pieces floating in a festering pool of crap seems about right to me. The entire album seems to be a session of studio noodling mixed into vulgar little pieces resembling songs. Many sections of the fourteen tracks contain wonderful acoustic guitar lines, all of which are invariably ruined, all semblance of beauty lost. If there is a point, I missed it. Just don't bother.

(2)



## Rhymes With Orange Trapped In The Machine (Plum/A&M)

Canadian underground indie faves Rhymes With Orange serve up a refreshing collection of tunes on this release. The music is rhythm heavy and reminiscent of the Tragically Hip and the Watchmen, but certainly not derivative of said groups. The songwriting is exceptional, and the instrumentation is equally proficient. The band achieves originality through its use of often ignored percussion sounds and careful use of keyboards to back the heavy bass and guitar lines. Vocalist Lyndon Johnson allows his voice to shine while remaining a part of the overall sound, not the central focus. *Trapped In The Machine* is recommended to all.

(4.5)

## MUSIC REVIEWS

by

MIKE BEAGAN

## The Waterboys The Secret Life Of The Waterboys '81-'85

(Ensign/EMI)

Ahhhhh, eighties music. That one phrase brings forth a plethora of unpleasant images. Plastic clothes, plastic hair, plastic sounding synthesizers; it's enough to make me cry. That is why this disc was such a pleasant surprise. All of the instruments, lyrics, music, and emotions are very real. This release of remixes and outtakes is straightforward rock 'n' roll with a lot of fun and a lot of feeling. You should listen before you buy, but this is certainly worth a look.

(3.5)

Gallery in the Guild  
presents

The  
Instrument  
Makers  
Show

Opening February 7th  
7:30

ARTISTS

Don MacConnell-Violin  
Neil MacConnell-Viola and Violin  
Keith Boere-Guitar  
Donald Holy-Guitars and Rosettes  
Kate Poole-Dulcimer  
David Thomson and Friends-  
Arnold Wogner, Rupert Vessey,  
Charlie Hanson-Guitar and Viola  
Vion Emery-Bodhean (drum)

EVENTS

FEB 7, 7:30 : Opening Ceremonies with musicians  
participating in Jam Session  
FEB 7-11, 11-4:00 : World renowned Kai Arvi  
FEB 11-12, 1:30-5:00 : Hendric Bouman, Harpsichord and  
Piano maker  
FEB 28, 11-12:00 : Makiko Yamaguchi on the Japanese Koto  
MARCH 1-2, 11-12:15 : The making of the Celtic Lap Harp  
and mini-concert with Nancy Clement

"Where would we be without the musicians? Where would the musicians be without the instrument makers?"