

ENTERTAINMENT



THE MASON CHAPMAN BAND is a powerful combination of distinctive voices, impeccable musical talent, and a spirit of fun that has proven irresistible to many and varied audiences across Canada's East Coast.

Their very diverse and very creative repertoire defies pigeonholing. From their own lively and sensitive song stylings to the contemporary pop of a Thomas Dolby, Adam Ant or Ian Dury, R and B classics by Sam and Dave or Marvin Gaye to sparkingly staged numbers by Manhattan Transfer or the acapella "Can't Sit Down", their song line-up is constantly changing and developing.

Seven keyboard instruments -- electric piano, Fender Rhodes, clarinette, organ, and three synthesizers -- charge their show with a strong stage personalities infuse it with distinctive character.

The 'personalities' are headed by keyboardists Bruce Chapman and Doris Mason. Chapman is an engaging M.C. who, along with Mason has written much of the group's original material. His talents on the keyboards took him through a variety of bands and single work in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia before the formation of Mason Chapman almost four years ago. Doris Mason has been playing piano and singing most of her life. Her pure, full voice is as comfortable with novelty numbers like "Danny's All Star Joint" to heart-wrenching ballads like their own "Still Want You."

Drummer-vocalist Dave Skinner injects a funky rhythm and blues flavour to his numbers and a good-humoured approach to the show. Roger Arsenault, bass player and newest member of the band, provides skillful musicianship and solid vocals.

Since its formation in 1979, The Mason Chapman Band has performed mainly in Nova Scotia with regular tours through the other Atlantic Provinces. They have become the strongest one-nighter draw in the region, playing to packed houses in concert, on university campuses, at high school graduations or in high profile nightclub appearances like the 800-seat Palace in Halifax.

One concert hall manager calls them "the most progressive, innovative, and visually exciting band in the region." (John Meir, deCoste Entertainment Centre)

Recently, MASON CHAPMAN appeared in concert at the 10,000-seat Halifax Metro Centre and appeared as special guests on Carroll Baker's television variety show. They were also featured on two segments of the nationally-aired CBC radio show, Ocean Limited, originating from the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium in Halifax.

The band has one album, released in November by Radio Canada International and produced by Skip

Beckwith (formerly with Anne Murray) at Solar Audio in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. The album contains ten of the band's original compositions, including their popular single "Still Want You."

The MASON CHAPMAN BAND are going places. Having established a firm foothold with Atlantic Canadian audiences, they are making plans to introduce their unique sound to other parts of the country. And the country is in for quite a treat!

The MASON CHAPMAN BAND will be appearing for the Pantherfest Co-ed. Listen to CIMN and the Sun for more details.

