

Arts Festival

The New Zealand Student Arts Council are presenting a national Festival of the Arts in Wellington between August 20 and 27th.

International Music — On Friday, August 26th in the Student Union Hall at Victoria University, there will be a concert featuring **John Martyn** and **Bert Jansch**. This will be their one New Zealand appearance. Bert Jansch is perhaps best known for his guitar work with fusion band Pentangle. But before and since, he has worked as a solo performer, acclaimed for his distinctive guitar style. John Martyn has also been pegged as a folk performer, although his style extends far beyond the limits of traditional music. For instance, one of his earlier albums, *Stormbringer*, was recorded with members of The Band in the States. His concerts, which feature acoustic guitar altered by the use of electronic devices, have consistently received rave reviews.

NZ Rock — NZ bands that will appear over the course of the Festival include: Rockinghorse, Hello Sailor, Country Flyers, Ragnarok, Rough Justice, Living Force, Heartbreakers, Tattiebogle, Cirrus, Schtung, and Crazy Mamma.

There will be socials in the Cafe of Victoria University every night featuring two bands. There will also be informal concerts held every day in the Union Hall.

A concert in Wellington Town Hall on Wednesday, 24 August will feature the top bands of the Festival.

Jazz — Sunday the 21st of August will see jazz workshops conducted by Colin Hemmingsen, together with impromptu jams. Sunday night, there'll be a concert with the Golden Horn Big Band with Colin Hemmingsen, Early Bird and Earthborn, 1860 Band and the Kevin Clark group.

Other features of interest in the Festival will include a screening of that classic, reggae film, *The Harder They Come*, as well as an extensive programme of film, dance, theatre, art and folk and experimental music.

Registration entitling the holder to entrance to all events will cost \$10 for students and \$15 for non-students. Door sales will be available for most events, though registered people will have preference. Billetting will also be available in Wellington.

For further info contact Paul Davis at Box 9047, Wellington or your local Student Arts Council rep on your nearest campus.



Geoff and Mike Chunn of Citizen Band.

Recording News

Brothers, Geoff and Mike Chunn, have recruited two Auckland musicians, Brent Eccles (drums) and Greg Clarke (guitar) and are going by the name of **Citizen Band**, with plans to do some performances in early September. Eccles and Clarke are members of Vox Pop and will continue to play with the group. Citizen Band are putting down some original songs at Mandrill studios in Parnell, Auckland, that will result in an album release later in the year.

A single entitled "Julia" written by Geoff Chunn will be released on the Mandrill label soon. Some notable musicians guest on the tracks (the B-side is an old M. Chunn/B. Finn song) — namely Kevin Wildman,

Graeme Gash, Alistair Riddell, Malcolm McCallum and Warren Sly.

Speaking of **Alistair Riddell**, he has a single released, also on the Mandrill label, entitled "Wonder Ones". He has done a clip for Radio With Pictures which should appear shortly. **Waves** were recording recently at Mascot studios. They put down a song entitled "Vegas" and did a film of it for overseas promotion. It hasn't been decided yet whether it will be released as a single.

There is a healthy quantity of local material at present on the airwaves. Rick Steele ("Trains Can Fly"), Richard Wilde ("Ever Since I Felt You Slipping Away") and soon Alistair Riddell and Citizen Band. And of course we can't forget Mark Williams' "It Doesn't Matter Anymore". Oops... almost forgot Hello Sailor and their fine song, "Gutter Black".



Harvey Mann of Living Force.

Living Force Energy and Devotion

Living Force are rocking out. Those who experience them are interacting enthusiastically with the warm, motivating energy they make; this is evident on their album, to be released this month.

The album, recorded locally at Mascot Studios and backed by WEA, comes after 2½ years of trial and error for the band, which was founded by Harvey Mann, Glen Absolum and Eddie Hansen, all of whom have played roles in milestone bands on the local scene. Mann and Absolum together in The Underdogs and Spacefarm, with Hansen out of Ticket.

"Eddie left halfway through the album to do his own thing. The players in the band haven't been on 'the scene.' Replacing Ed is Matt Matopi. He is a talented guy, plays bass, guitar, percussion, sings and we are combining well writing lots of songs," says Harvey.

"Glen is a real musician, not just a guy who sits behind the drums. He and Mike Fisher, who plays congas and percussion, are combining well, giving strong and creative rhythms."

John Pepper works out on keyboards. Prior to Living Force he ambled around the country playing a beat-up, old guitar in communes. He sees the purpose of the band as, interaction. "We want to feel off one

another, get people involved where they are getting off on the vibes that we generate from our feelings, instead of the band and crowd segregated; us up here and them down there. We are doing a concert-come-dance sort of thing."

Matt notes, "One guy who came to see us danced till his feet blistered."

There is inner purpose in the band, not because all members are Krishna devotees. Harvey explains: "We want Living Force to be a loose vehicle for the people in it to express themselves, for the music to be tight, with the themes to be clean and clear. We are into getting the mood of the music across and it saying something — the words, melody, rhythm — and it all saying the same thing with full intensity, so that it has a powerful impact. People are going to be surprised when they hear us, there will be a time when this music will make an impression on people. We're ambitious and want to do it."

What about saleability of their new album. "Anything will sell, or appeal to the mass public, if you are right into it and the vibe is really nice.

We are aiming for the lowest common denominator, playing simple music," Mann states with forthright conviction.

"I hear all these bands, even with

Songwriter's Showcase

The 12th of July saw the second in a series of 'Songwriters Showcases' that are held monthly in Phil Warren's Ace of Clubs nightclub, Cook St, Auckland. The evenings are organized by Ray Columbus and his wife, and provide a platform for songwriters, especially those that don't perform publicly, to air their material to anyone who might be interested. Judging by the House Full sign and the number of radio, TV and record company people present, there is a healthy selection of interested people.

The performers on this occasion were Larry Killip, Rick Steele, John Hanlon and Waves, and the standard of composition, although at times a little lacking in substance, was good.

Hopefully presentations of this type will spread to other centres, as it gives NZ songwriters a chance to get their knees knocking and let *real* people rather than the living room wall, hear their songs. Anyone interested in performing should send a tape of their material to Ray Columbus, c/o TV2, Auckland. The next showcase is on August 30, so if you're interested, come along, but make sure you're early.

Who's Where

Hello Sailor White Hart, New Plymouth (August 8-13), Wellington (August 22-27).

Biggles Globe Tavern (August 6-13), Windsor Tavern (August 15-20).

Living Force at Island of Real Cafe, August 7.

If you're not here that's because you didn't let us know. For listing write Box 5689, Auckland.

talented guys in them, who have all these flowery arrangements, effects and zoned-out words, but it is nothing. It is like listening to a couple of old ladies talking, they talk for hours and hours, not managing to say anything, yet a lot of people think what they are saying is so hip, 'cause that's where they're at. If they could step back and look at themselves, they would laugh.

"We are not following the rock scene; we are not there just to entertain, nor are we ramming Krishna down people's throats. We are treading our own path, having a ball doing our thing and if people can relate to that, we all have a good time."

Mann's soft, sincere nature comes through and he readily confesses that Krishna consciousness has given him spiritual direction and a central point and dedication to his art. "We have so much original material coming forth all the time. We are perfectionists by nature. I'm very self critical of my playing. Only 10% of what I play is worth anything, but I am enlarging that 10%."

Reflecting on his 12 years of playing guitar, and the feeling of being pretty broke, he gives off an agonising sigh. "Shit, it has been a constant battle and struggle with costs. Playing music is a richman's luxury — you've got to play your own stuff. If you don't it is like being a painter and painting someone else's picture. I can't put on any act. I just love playing music."

A listen to the album, on Harvey's car cassette, reveals well shaped tracks with richness and plenty of mood variance — hard riffs, rocking, funk; gospel soul; soaring melodies and an eastern influence skillfully executed on one track, with the use of a sitar type guitar called a tameoura. Pockets of emotional jamming make it an album of dynamic energy. The songs to be released as singles don't downgrade the album at all with their commercial palatability.

The only reason why Living Force's album shouldn't sell well, without inflated hype or a succession of hits behind them, will be because of New Zealanders indifference to their artists.

Ray Castle

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