

CHALICE:

Their cup runneth over.

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and SHEENAGH MURPHY

Once in a while — not very often, mind you but once in a blue moon, you'll hear a band play and you'll ask yourself 'where have they been hiding'; 'why haven't I heard of them before.'

Well, Chalice is one such band and the reason you have never heard of them before is because they have only been together since March of this year.

Who is Chalice and where are they from, you ask? First, let's examine their name and see how it pertains to the band itself. When one hears the word chalice, one thinks of the Meriam-Webster definition i.e. a drinking cup. Now, if one were then to apply that interpretation of the word to the band, you might come up with something a little more spicy like - CHALICE - a musical goblet overflowing with talent. Sounds dumb and a little corny, huh? Maybe - but then most compliments do, don't they.

Anyway, back to answering your questions. Who or what is Chalice? It is five guys, Bob Quinn, Tony Quinn (no relation), Jack Harris, Jimmy White and Paul Eisan. Each of these guys have at one time or another played with various bands known throughout Eastern Canada. These include Molly Oliver, Pepper Tree, 5 Sounds and others. The combined number of professional playing years for the band is about 50. (To clarify, that a total of 50 or an average of 10 years for each member — just in case some of you read too quickly and are now picturing five 60 or 70 year old men trying to recapture their childhood.) In point of fact the average age is 27 years.

Chalice was brought together by Bob Quinn, his prime objective being to record. It is a band which performs a lot of their own music, with 60 percent of their show being original material, all of which has been written by Bob.

Developing original material is one aspect which the bands find extremely relevant. Recording being a primary goal, Chalice realizes the significance of developing their own sound. Future plans ensure that contributions from each band member will help them to realize this ambition.

Demo tapes have been made and the band is looking to RCA, Warner and Epic in hopes that

one of these companies will be interested enough to put Chalice's name on their label.

To facilitate this, the group is based in Toronto, where exposure could prove beneficial. The band members, however, are all from around the Halifax area. Here in Fredericton, Chalice has acquired a large following of avid fans; people impressed by the formidable talent and expertise of the group. Bob said that while the group is grateful for the encouragement the exposure is not conducive to potential recording, which is why they are basing their operation in the larger city.

While Chalice would like to record in Canada, they admitted they would go to the States if offered the chance. Bob said the Canadian music scene at this time is a "thorn in our sides". He said he would like to see a change in it. According to him, no matter how good a band is, or how they are received in various parts of Canada, they are never really accepted by audiences in Canada until they are established in the States. This is the reason why so much excellent Canadian talent is American based.

The combination is, to coin a phrase, dynamite. The group's versatility and expertise offer the audience a variety of really incredible sounds. Their material includes a mixture of classical,

Each band member is an artist in his own right, a remarkable occurrence which gives the audience an impression of five very talented people who somehow manage (and very well) to make a harmonious whole. There is no specific emphasis on any one member, yet each stands out clearly as an individual and fine musician.

The instigator of the group, Bob Quinn is the organist as well as vocalist. Tony Quinn and Paul Eisan are both on guitar as well as vocals and Jimmy White supplies the third guitar to the group. Drummer Jack Harris is, according to Bob the highlight of the band but is sometimes left out of the limelight due to his positioning, and his overwhelming talents cannot be properly appreciated.

The vocalists of the band each possess an original and interesting voice with Paul having the most remarkable of the three. Bob and Tony describe it "ballsy", and its clarity and beauty almost mesmerize the audience.

Jimmy, the quiet one, shows his 15 years of professional playing and is a joy both to watch and listen to.

The combination is, to coin a phrase, dynamite. The group's versatility and expertise offer the audience a variety of really incredible sounds. Their material is influenced by backgrounds of classical, jazz and rock and roll. Every is done well, and perhaps those which appeal the most to their listeners are the group's own. Songs like "The Heat of the Night", "I'd Like to Run" and "Gypsy Fantasy" (which is, by the way, the band's personal favourite) enthrall the audience, both for their lyrics, which show a depth and perception lacking in

a great deal of contemporary music, but also the manner in which they are presented.

When the lights dim, and the music starts, and Bob begins the plaintive, heart-rendering notes of "I'd Like to Run", there are few who remain unaffected.

According to Bob the band is now in its second stage of development, i.e. discarding tunes they don't want to use and adding new ones of their own. To use terms of their own, Chalice is now like "crude sugar" hoping to become more "refined". With that I guess one could say "You can bet your ass that Chalice is one sweetener the Department of Health won't ban!!!"



CHALICE

Clockwise from front: Paul Eisan, Bob Quinn, Jack Harris, Tony Quinn and Jimmy White

Chalice will be entertaining at the Shinerama Festival Dance, Saturday, September 10, 1977 at the Aitken Centre, 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Shiners: Free admission
Others: \$2.50