

LISTEN TO THIS

David Usher Morning Orbit EMI

David Usher's latest solo release, *Morning Orbit*, is a mix of upbeat pop, smooth tunes, and his traditional alternative style.

If you can get past the first track's ("How Are You") tacky, pseudo-electronic vocals (which are reminiscent of Cher's last album), *Morning Orbit* does promise a few good songs.

Usher's strong vocals are both the strength and weakness of this album. Unfortunately, the instrumentals are no match for his singing abilities.

This makes the vocals not only the focus of the music, but also the

only element of quality. I had a hard time listening to the CD from beginning to

end as I tired of hearing nothing but Usher's voice. This is especially true in tracks where Usher gets a bit too chorus-happy.

I would recommend this CD to anyone who is looking for some good vocals and doesn't mind a bit of teenybopper pop. Otherwise, David Usher should stick with Moist.

• Emma Hutchman



Project Wyze misfits.strangers.liars.friends Sony

The release of Project Wyze's debut mainstream album, *misfits.strangers.liars.friends*, is the culmination of six years of hard work. Project Wyze blends hip hop rhymes with hardcore guitar riffs to produce an impressive style bordering on that of Limp Bizkit, Linkin Park and Crazy Town. But this Ontario-based group, comprised of two vocalists, two guitarists, a bassist and a drummer, is still able to create their own unique style. Their two vocalists, Yas and Bobby, originated as hip hop emcees, which allows the group to take lyricism to a higher level. The lyrics flow extremely well with the hardcore

guitar and beats, but these two emcees are also able to reach an upper echelon of conscious rap, and all that without turning to profanities. Their lyrics are clean and tight, and that's impressive.

"Erica" was my favorite track, as MCs Yas and Bobby weave lyrics back and forth at each other, feeding off each other's energy. The guitar, bass, drums and DJ Dopey all combine to create a mellow track, brimming with energy. The first single, "Nothing's What It Seems," teems with lyrical gems that break into a power packed guitar-laden chorus. "Running Away"'s chorus of "...everybody get up..." is reminiscent of pop band, 5ive's hit single, "Everybody Get Up." But the fusion of guitar saves the track and helps make it one of the best on the album.

I really enjoyed the debut album from Project Wyze. It's hard to admit, but *misfits.strangers.liars.friends* reminded me of Limp Bizkit's amazing *Significant Other* album. Project Wyze is definitely a very impressive Canadian band, and this album proves that they're on the rise.

4 out of 5

• Troy Neilson

Sons of Maxwell Among the Living Independant

Anyone who thought that Sons of Maxwell were just a great cover band will be in for a pleasant surprise upon hearing their latest CD. Brothers Don and Dave Carroll have been delighting audiences for years but are now poised to take it to a new level. *Among the Living* is the first Sons of Maxwell album to be penned entirely by Dave. It is also arguably their strongest production to date.

With this release, Sons of Maxwell have firmly stepped out from beneath the Celtic umbrella that people had placed them under for so long. The duo got their roots from traditional music but have really come into their own as of late.

The songs on *Among the Living* vary in mood and tempo from ballads such as 'Mile a Minute,' 'Easy Come Easy Go' and the hauntingly sad 'Hold On,' the touching story of an Alzheimer patient and her husband, to the comical romp 'When the Circus Comes to Town,' a song about the craziness of family

reunions.

The biggest departure from the traditional Sons of Maxwell sound is 'Get It Jumpin', a bluesy rock tune that celebrates weekend parties. Along with fiddles and classical guitars, there are even some touches of electronic effects on this album. This CD has a little something for every music lover.

For the most part, the songs sound wonderful with full arrangements. One exception would seem to be 'The 5:07.' Having heard it live many times, the song seems to have lost some of its warmth in the recording process. J.P. Cormier's fiddle adds a country slant to the song that doesn't quite seem right. That same fiddle, however, on 'Mrs. Stanley,' fits in beautifully.

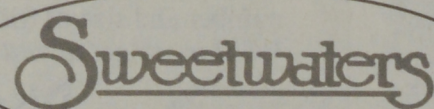
I've heard it said before that there's nothing like sibling harmony and the Carroll brothers only confirm this. While Dave takes the lead on the majority of songs, Don's harmonies provide a tight, solid foundation. On the odd track where Don steps to the front, his vocal talent proves that he's not just the guy with the bodhran. The Carroll brothers truly are quite a team.

• Melissa Hogan

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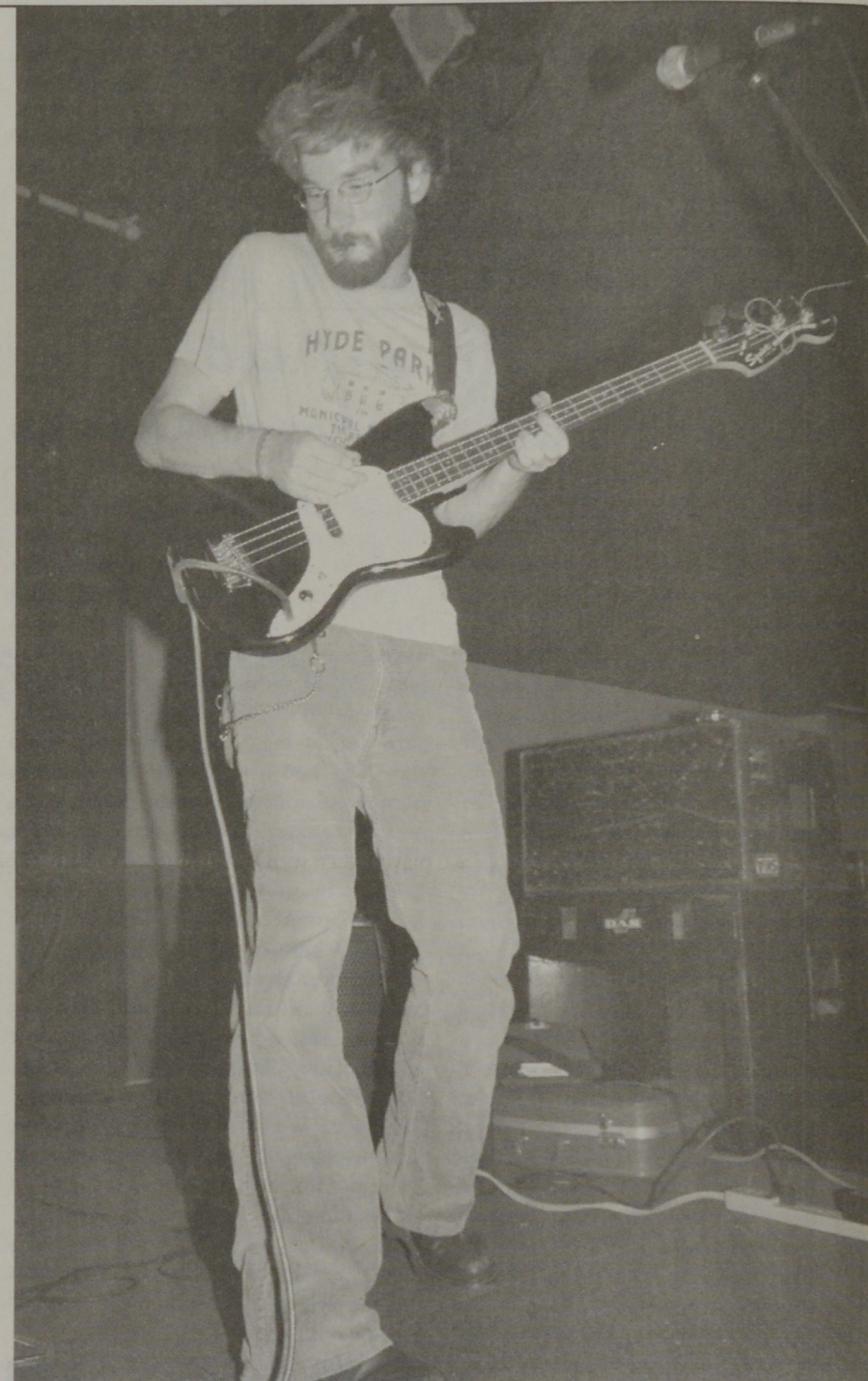
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Das Radio @ The Chestnut



Mark McGinnis/The Brunswickan

Clark Richards of Das Radio, caught in mid-swing. The band recently opened for the legendary Eric's Trip on two East Coast dates, and will be recording at the end of the month. Check out their webpage at <http://dasradio.nethop.com>

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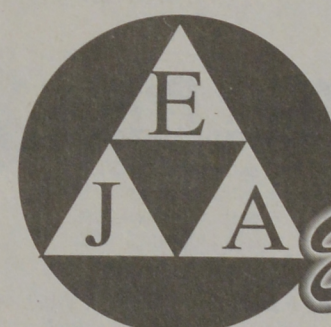
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