

Talent in Action

CAMPER VAN BEETHOVEN
Cat Club, New York
Tickets: \$10

CAMPER VAN BEETHOVEN makes the term "genre" obsolete. The Santa Cruz, Calif.-based quintet thrives on piecing together seemingly incompatible musical styles, often within a single song, and creating a sound that is both natural and effortless.

At this recent date, the Campers seemed to be trying extra hard to prove they know no limits. Drawing on material from its three Pitch-A-Tent/Rough Trade albums (the group is now linked with I.R.S.), the band spliced jazzy chord changes into country instrumentals, grafted a reggae rhythm onto a Neil Young-like ballad, and, most intensely of all, moved from a lengthy Pink Floyd instrumental, "Interstellar Overdrive," into Ringo Starr's "Photograph."

This is all in a night's work for Camper Van Beethoven, and it's not done without a sense of humor, which is most likely why the alternative media have taken to the group so quickly. The band's chops are on par with any fusion act you'd care to name, but no fusion act ever performed songs like "Take The Skinheads Bowling" or "(We're A) Bad Trip." Or stuck a Led Zeppelin riff into middle of a Middle Eastern-flavored instrumental best described as a hoedown hora.

Camper Van Beethoven has been pinpointed by some critics as the American underground band to watch in 1987. While it's true that the group's unorthodox and low-key approach is far from mainstream, it is Camper Van Beethoven's time to move up from the indie ghetto.

JEFF TAMARKIN

THE CHIEFTAINS

*Bridges Auditorium
Claremont, Calif.
Tickets: \$13.75, \$11.75*

IN MORE THAN 20 years of playing traditional Irish music, the Chieftains have captured an Oscar (for their 1976 "Barry Lyndon" score), recorded 14 albums, and performed for the Pope and 1.3 million people in Dublin (in 1979).

Yet in their appearance here last month before a packed house, the six-man ensemble still played with

an engaging enthusiasm that made every tune (even those centuries old) seem fresh and alive.

Paddy Moloney and the boys, relaxed and obviously having a good time on-stage, can imbue any concert hall with the intimacy of an Irish pub as they throw playful jibes at each other, tell stories, and spin masterfully through a well-crafted repertoire of reels, airs, and jigs.

Each Chieftain is a virtuoso on his instrument: Derek Bell (harp), Matt Malloy (flute), Sean Keane (fiddle), Martin Fay (fiddle), Kevin Conneff (bodhran and vocals), and Moloney (uilleann pipes, tin whistle). The latter is the heart of the band, letting out yelps, wisecracks, and cheers, then magically eliciting squeaks, squawks, laments, and sprightly leads from the pipes.

The Chieftains' intricate music is rich in improvisation, foot-stomping rhythms, and melodies full of elation, sadness, and wistfulness. In their 100-minute set (with one intermission), the Irishmen energized an initially staid audience with old and new favorites, gave Celtic interpretations of Breton, Texan, and Chinese tunes, and encored with the achingly beautiful "Tabhair Dom Do Lamh" ("Give Me Your Hand").

CHRIS MCGOWAN

RECKLESS ALBUM

(Continued from page 24)

Now that "No Frills" has emerged, French is highly optimistic that Reckless will make its mark. Radio play on the single "Nitty Gritty" is building, and an accompanying videoclip has been lensed.

"Video has proved to be important for a lot of bands right now," says French, "especially new metal acts like Poison and Cinderella. MTV has always been an important force. It went through a shake-out period, but I was always a believer. And it's really returned to that cutting edge. MTV has supported Twisted Sister, and I hope they get behind Reckless."

As for future production work, French says, "We've been approached on a number of things, and it's definitely something we want to continue. The problem is where to fit it in with Twisted Sister's schedule."



BOXSCORE TOP CONCERT GROSSES

ARTIST(S)	Venue	Date(s)	Gross Ticket Price(s)	Attendance Capacity	Promoter
GENESIS	Orange Bowl Miami, Fla.	March 1	\$1,160,000 \$17.75	65,356 82,000	Cellar Door Concerts
PATTI LABELLE WILLIE TYLER & LESTER PAUL RODRIGUEZ THE RASPYNI BROTHERS	Forrest Theatre Philadelphia, Pa.	Feb. 10-15, 17-22, March 1	\$822,503 \$30/\$25/\$22.50	32,706 sellout	Electric Factory Concerts
NEIL DIAMOND	Sun Dome Univ. of South Florida Tampa, Fla.	Feb. 24-26	\$569,360 \$17.50/\$15	32,839 33,189	American Concerts
IRON MAIDEN VINNIE VINCENT INVASION	Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center Arena Long Beach, Calif.	Feb. 16-18	\$567,366 \$17.50/\$16	33,956 39,690	Avalon Attractions
GENESIS	The Omni Atlanta, Ga.	Feb. 25-26	\$560,368 \$17.50	32,021 sellout	PACE Concerts
BILLY JOEL	Sun Dome Univ. of South Florida Tampa, Fla.	Feb. 27-28, March 2	\$537,232 \$17.50	30,699 sellout	Fantasma Prods.
FREDDIE JACKSON RAY, GOODMAN & BROWN NAJEE	Radio City Music Hall New York, N.Y.	Feb. 26-27	\$375,405 \$22.50/\$20	17,622 sellout	Radio City Music Hall Prods.
PAUL YOUNG LUBA	Maple Leaf Gardens Toronto, Ontario	Feb. 27	\$295,080 (\$212,288 Canadian) \$22.50	9,435 10,000	Concert Prods. International
DAVID COPPERFIELD	Warner Theatre Washington, D.C.	Feb. 20-22	\$294,920 \$22.50	14,945 15,000	Festival Ventures Washington Theatre League
BILLY JOEL	Kemper Arena, American Royal Center Kansas City, Mo.	Feb. 13	\$267,278 \$17.50	16,382 sellout	Contemporary Prods. New West Presentations
ALABAMA JOHN SCHNEIDER	Freedom Hall Coliseum, Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center Louisville, Ky.	Feb. 28	\$249,101 \$16.50	15,097 sellout	Keith Fowler Promotions
DAVID COPPERFIELD	Riverside Theatre Milwaukee, Wis.	Feb. 26-March 1	\$248,230 \$20.50	14,461 16,271	in-house
ANITA BAKER DURRELL COLEMAN	Circle Star Theatre San Carlos, Calif.	Feb. 6-8	\$238,000 \$22.50	11,100	Turning Point Prods. (John Ray)
PRETENDERS IGGY POP	Los Angeles Sports Arena Los Angeles, Calif.	Feb. 21	\$226,839 \$17.50/\$16	14,057 sellout	Avalon Attractions
BON JOVI CINDERELLA	Myriad Convention Center Oklahoma City, Okla.	Feb. 24	\$216,750 \$15	14,450 sellout	Beaver Prods. Little Wing Prods.
ALICE COOPER SWORD	Maple Leaf Gardens Toronto, Ontario	Feb. 26	\$196,978 (\$273,800 Canadian) \$20	13,690 14,000	Concert Prods. International
THE PRETENDERS IGGY POP	Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum Oakland, Calif.	Feb. 28	\$196,119 \$16.50	11,886 13,000	Bill Graham Presents
NEIL DIAMOND	Pensacola Civic Center Pensacola, Fla.	Feb. 20	\$182,271 \$17.50/\$15	10,567 sellout	Arch Angel Concerts Fantasma Prods.
ANITA BAKER DURRELL COLEMAN	Saenger Arts Center Inc. New Orleans, La.	Feb. 18, 20-21	\$181,000 \$22.50	8,400 sellout	Turning Point Prods. (John Ray)
GALLAGHER	Holiday Star Theatre Merrillville, Ind.	Feb. 12-15	\$179,500 \$14.95	13,000 13,600	in-house
NEIL DIAMOND	Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center Tallahassee, Fla.	Feb. 22	\$163,103 \$17.50/\$15	10,311 sellout	Cellar Door Concerts
HUEY LEWIS & THE NEWS DELBERT MCCLINTON	J.S. Dorton Arena North Carolina State Fair, Raleigh, N.C.	Feb. 28	\$162,459 \$16.50	10,338 11,000	Cellar Door Concerts
HUEY LEWIS & THE NEWS SOUTHERN PACIFIC	Rupp Arena, Lexington Center Lexington, Ky.	Feb. 23	\$161,073 \$12.50	10,347 12,500	Sunshine Promotions
HUEY LEWIS & THE NEWS SOUTHERN PACIFIC	Stokely Athletic Center Univ. of Tennessee-Knoxville Knoxville, Tenn.	Feb. 24	\$153,203 \$16/\$14	10,086 sellout	Mid-South Concerts
PAUL YOUNG LUBA	Maple Leaf Gardens Toronto, Ontario	Feb. 27	\$152,725 (\$212,288 Canadian) \$22.50	9,435 10,000	Concert Prods. International
BON JOVI CINDERELLA	Barton Coliseum Arkansas State Fairgrounds, Little Rock, Ark.	Feb. 28	\$150,000 \$15	10,000 sellout	Mid-South Concerts
ALABAMA JOHN SCHNEIDER	Centennial Hall Univ. of Toledo Toledo, Ohio	Feb. 27	\$149,193 \$16.50	9,248 sellout	Keith Fowler Promotions
PAUL SIMON	Berkeley Community Theatre Berkeley, Calif.	Feb. 27-28	\$137,900 \$20	7,182 sellout	Bill Graham Presents
HUEY LEWIS & THE NEWS DELBERT MCCLINTON	Littlejohn Coliseum Clemson Univ. Clemson, S.C.	Feb. 27	\$129,461 \$16	7,983 10,700	Cellar Door Concerts
ANITA BAKER DURRELL COLEMAN	Paramount Theatre of Arts Oakland, Calif.	Feb. 4-5	\$129,000 \$22.50	5,600 sellout	Turning Point Prods. (John Ray)
CHICAGO	Memorial Auditorium, Dallas Convention Center Dallas, Texas	March 1	\$127,614 \$16.50/\$15	8,158 sellout	PACE Concerts
HUEY LEWIS & THE NEWS DELBERT MCCLINTON	Augusta-Richmond County Civic Center Augusta, Ga.	Feb. 26	\$119,753 \$16.50	8,081 sellout	Cellar Door Concerts
IRON MAIDEN VINNIE VINCENT INVASION	El Paso County Coliseum El Paso, Texas	Feb. 27	\$117,207 \$15.50/\$14.50	8,050 sellout	Stardate Concerts PACE Concerts
GALLAGHER	Carlton Celebrity Theatre Minneapolis, Minn.	Feb. 19-22	\$116,493 \$16.95/\$12	8,160 sellout	in-house
PRETENDERS IGGY POP	San Diego Sports Arena San Diego, Calif.	Feb. 19	\$115,816 \$15.50/\$14.50	7,984 14,063	Avalon Attractions
THE JUDDS LEE GREENWOOD THE BELLAMY BROTHERS	Charlotte Coliseum Charlotte, N.C.	Feb. 28	\$112,631 \$13.50	8,985 10,000	Stellar Entertainment
RICHARD NADER'S VALENTINE'S DOO WOPP SHOW LITTLE ANTHONY FRED PARIS & THE LITTLE SATINS THE BELMONT & MARVELETTES	Aspen Hotel Parsippany, N.J.	Feb. 14	\$108,750 \$25/\$20	5,252 sellout	Richard Nader Entertainment
ALABAMA JOHN SCHNEIDER	Arena, Freedom Hall Civic Center Johnson City, Tenn.	March 1	\$106,937 \$16.50	6,481 sellout	Keith Fowler Promotions

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