

# ENCORE!

The Oregon Daily Emerald's Entertainment Guide

## College 'rock' band brings latest tour to EMU Ballroom stage

By Layne Lakefish  
Encore Reporter

They've been together for six years, they've cut more than five albums and they've been touring on-and-off for four years.

They released their most recent album, *Key Lime Pie*, in September, they toured with 10,000 Maniacs in August and September and now they're back on tour — heading for Eugene.

Camper Van Beethoven will take the EMU Ballroom stage Dec. 4 at 8:30 p.m. They haven't been in Eugene since 1987 and this concert is expected to bring in close to 1,000 people, filling the Ballroom to capacity.

"This is going to be a good, solid college rock concert," said Judy Lovdøkken, EMU Cultural Forum small concerts coordinator.

"Rock" is what the band likes to call their music, but a Camper Van Beethoven fan might say there is more to it than that. Some reggae. A touch of polka. Country. Emotion. A hint of moodiness. A lot of humor. All of this makes up what lead singer/rhythm guitar player David Lowery calls "rock music."

"When I look back at the rock bands that were regarded as great bands — The Stones, The Beatles — they were all fairly collective bands that incorporated all sorts of sounds and styles, but they were still 'rock bands,'" Lowery said. "Rock doesn't have one specific sound."

Since the band's sound can't be easily labeled and because the sound encompasses so many musical genres, their musical style is often described as weird, different or strange. "Please steer clear of the hy-



Courtesy Photo

Camper Van Beethoven will play their hard-to-label music in the EMU Ballroom Dec. 4.

phen-hyphen ethno-everything descriptions of our music," Victor Kruppenacher, Camper Van Beethoven's bass player, said in a press release. "And if you could describe it without ever resorting to the word 'wacky' we'd greatly appreciate it."

The band seeks to be differ-

ent. Their music possesses some of the qualities of the norm in rock music and also catches ears with its diverse musical combinations, but there's a reason for that.

"I've always wanted us to get past the idea of us being a real insider's band, which is one reason we started out playing

folk music, real simplistic stuff, because it's more universal," Lowery said in a press release. "But at the same time, we really do strive to be unique."

Much of the uniqueness of Camper Van Beethoven's sound also comes from the interesting

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