

Tempest blends rock with ancient rhythm

By Meg Dedolph
Oregon Daily Emerald

Some things just don't go together. Chocolate sauce on fried shrimp, for example. Other things seem like they shouldn't, but do, like honey and mustard, or hard-rocking guitar riffs and older-than-the-hills Irish jigs and reels.

But Tempest, a five-piece Bay Area band, is indebted to traditional folk music, mainly from Ireland, Scotland and England as the basis for their "rock 'n' reel" music, which has not only guitars, but bass and drums as well.

The band includes Leif Sorbye on lead vocals and electric mandolin, Jon Berger on fiddle, Rob Wullenjohn on lead guitar, Ian Butler on bass and Adolfo Lazo on drums.

Despite his background in rock music, especially when he was younger, Sorbye, the band's founder, said he went through a period in which he listened almost exclusively to acoustic traditional music.

But, some time in the mid-1980s, he said he "opened up and got it to where I wanted to combine the two (rock and traditional music)."

Tempest was the result. "As much as I like traditional music as it was played in the old days," Sorbye said, "it could become a museum piece if it doesn't evolve."

Sorbye, who spent eight years with Golden Bough, an acoustic Celtic band, before forming Tempest in 1988, said rock and traditional Celtic music are a natural mix because the structures are similar.

"It's the source music for rock and roll," he said. "The foundations, the six-eight and four-four times are standard backbeat rhythms."

"Fans probably have a lot of different opinions on what a Tempest song is," he said. "For me, a Tempest song is something that sounds natural when we all play together and we have a certain feel together."

"We take our music seriously, but not ourselves," he said. "We're having fun with what we're doing and not preaching it. We're pretty loose as far as what we put across."

Sorbye admits, however, that Tempest's approach, combining traditional music and rock, is not necessarily new. Bands like Jethro Tull, Fairport Convention and the Pogues — all Tempest influences — have successfully merged folk and rock.



Tempest will play John Henry's Saturday, July 23. Admission for the show is \$5, Celtic harpist David Helford will open for the band.

"There's a lot of room to explore within this form," Sorbye said. "There's tons of traditional material, plus, everyone in the band writes."

On *Surfing to Mecca*, the band's latest album, the group's traditional ties are apparent, combining tunes taken from the *Oxford Book of Carols* with English Morris dance tunes.

The album also draws heavily on Irish, Scottish, Shetland and Norwegian musical traditions, and nods briefly at Middle Eastern music on the title track, in which a minor-sounding fiddle melody meets up with a surf-rock bass line and backbeat.

"The guitarist (Wullenjohn) wrote 'Surfing to Mecca,'" Sor-

bye said. "He'll discover something and go with it without necessarily being steeped in that tradition."

But despite the band's four previous albums, Sorbye said Tempest is best live.

"I personally feel we're stronger live than in the studio," he said. "In the studio, recording is just one performance, but on tour, it changes from night to night depending on the audience. It's a very energetic type of music - we go out and create an effect on the audience."

Tempest will be at John Henry's on Saturday, July 23, at 9:30 p.m. Celtic harpist David Helford will be opening for the band. Admission is \$5.

Tennis & Racquetball Restringing Specials

Tournament Nylon
\$5⁰⁰
Reg. \$15.00

Synthetic Gut
\$9⁹⁵
Reg. \$20.00



Illusions
1311 Lincoln
Willamette Towers Building
345-1810

Haircuts...\$8

reg. \$15
with shampoo & conditioner

Perms...\$29⁹⁵

Loop rods
& spirals.....\$39⁹⁵

reg. \$50-65 w/ conditioners, cut & style. Longer, color treated hair slightly more.

Coupon good with Kerri and Kelly.
Staff: Glona Baker, Sheila Ball, Barbara Bowman, Kelly Giedea, Kerri Winters & Marla Woods.
Good Through July 29, 1994.

GARAGE SALE SATURDAY ONLY

"Time to get rid of all the stuff cluttering up our shops!"

BICYCLES UP TO 35% OFF

PARTS, ACCESSORIES, SHOES, CLOTHING 50% OFF

BOTH LOCATIONS

2480 ALDER • 342-6155
152 W. 5th • 344-4105



Donate Blood Make a DIFFERENCE!

Blood Donors URGENTLY needed.

Be a volunteer donor.

Come to the Donor Center Monday through Friday.

Appointments Please.
484-9111



Lane Memorial Blood Bank
2211 Willamette St. - Next to Civic Stadium

SUMMER TERM SPECIAL



3 Months for.....\$99
2 Months for.....\$69
NO INITIATION FEE

OREGON WEST
FITNESS

Tanning packages available: You don't need to be a member!

- Personalized Training
- Aerobics!!!
- Tanning Packages
- Complete Co-Ed Spa Facilities
- Next to Biking & Running Trails
- Universal Circuit & Free Weights
- Stairmasters, Aerobicycles, Lifecycles & Versaclimber

Expires July 31, 1994

1475 Franklin Blvd.
across from campus

485-1624