

Guitarist comes full circle

King Crimson guitarist Trey Gunn performs tonight at the WOW Hall

By Jack Clifford
Oregon Daily Emerald

Even though Trey Gunn hasn't played music on the University campus since the mid-1980s, he remembered the experiences with quite a bit of clarity during a recent phone conversation from Arcata, Calif.

"My band Magic If played a lot at the WOW Hall and also at the EMU Ballroom," said Gunn, a 1986 graduate from the music department. "There was a real hippie vibe back then, but a lot of punk bands came through town. I saw X and Black Flag at the WOW Hall."

"Oh yeah, we also played at the beer garden on campus. It was horrible."

"Hey, at least there was a beer garden," several students could respond to that last gloomy de-

scription of his performing career in Eugene. Life got better for Gunn, however, and tonight is a bit of a homecoming for the Seattle resident.

The Trey Gunn Band plays the WOW Hall (did someone say "déjà vu?"), with special guests Facelift, from Eugene, opening the 8 p.m. show. Tickets are \$12 at the door.

Yes, Gunn's life got much better not too long after he left the Pacific Northwest. In 1992, he joined a collaborative project with David Sylvian and King Crimson guitarist/frontman Robert Fripp, releasing a pair of CDs.

Gunn then got the call-up to play with King Crimson, a spot he's filled since 1994, enough time to lend his talent to five King Crimson albums. In between recording and touring with the legends, he's managed to squeeze in enough personal time on his own band, which recently released its fourth CD,

"The Joy of Molybdenum."

Gunn just finished recording his fifth album with King Crimson, "The Construction of Light," which is scheduled to be released May 1.

No wonder he recalls the beer garden gig as one that sucked.

"It's definitely an asset to have played with the best musicians in the world," Gunn said, referring not only to Fripp, et al, but also to such musical luminaries as Toni Childs and Led Zeppelin's John Paul Jones. "It's a real honor to be in [King Crimson]."

Attempting to describe the sound Gunn puts out with his own band is no easy task. Drawing on tinges of the world beat genre, some fusion and a progressive rock pulse, the band's mix is two parts mesmerizing and one part "damn, that's cool."

The diversified music comes from the instruments used to produce the material. Tony Geballe plays electric guitar, 12-string acoustic guitar and the Turkish saz. Percussionist Bob Muller uses everything from a tabla to a darbouka to a gamelan drum for his input.

Gunn himself takes the stage with a variety of touch guitars, built by Mark Warr of Warr Guitars. The eight-, 10- or 12-stringed instruments are mostly tapped instead of strummed or picked and have ranges from below a bass to the highs of an electric guitar.

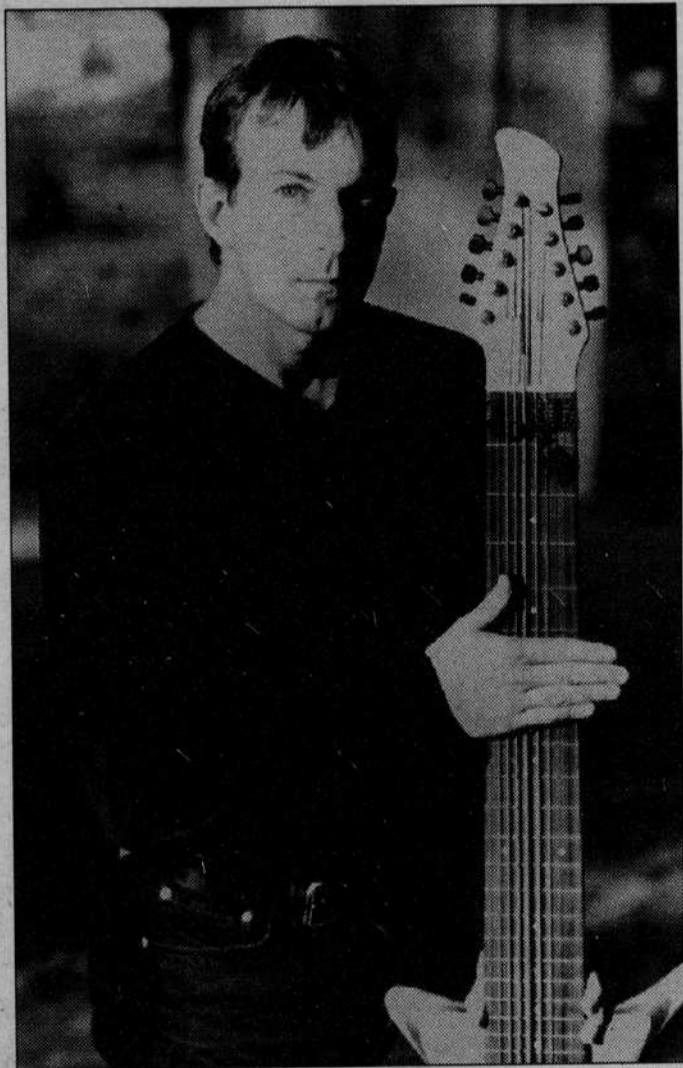
When he's not tapping away, Gunn might chime in with a mellotron, a theremin, the short-wave or his smokey guitar. For this three week tour, Randy Storm joins the band as another touch guitarist.

With the memories of his past creeping in again, Gunn said that he looks forward to entertaining a local audience. This gig almost certainly will be better than another one he recalled, this time involving the first band he formed in Eugene, Punishment Farm.

"We were chosen to play at 'test day' when the Hult Center first opened up," he mused. "They were checking the acoustics and needed someone to play for the reviewers."

"We were the noisemakers." Gunn's kicking up a lot of racket these days and he's gone from the pauper life of a student slumming for rent money at a campus beer garden to sharing a stage with King Crimson.

That's gotta be everything but "horrible."



Trey Gunn, with one of his touch guitars, plays the WOW Hall tonight.

Courtesy



Courtesy

Laura Love, a Seattle-base singer/songwriter, began recording CDs in 1990; her 'Afro-Celtic' sound has been delighting fans ever since.

Love-ly benefit show to fight sexual assault

Laura Love, T.R. Kelley headline a pre-Valentine show at the WOW Hall

By Yael Menahem
Oregon Daily Emerald

Love's coming to town. Seattle-based singer/songwriter Laura Love and local Babes with Axes band member T.R. Kelley will perform Saturday night at a pre-Valentine's Day concert.

The WOW Hall event is a benefit for Sexual Assault Support Services, a local non-profit organization.

SASS offers counseling and educational programs for people who have been affected by sexual abuse, harassment or assault. They also provide a 24-hour crisis line and self-defense empowerment classes.

Phyllis Barkhurst, former director of SASS and the brainchild behind the concert, says she always wanted to put on a Love show. Barkhurst and Jodi Henry, SASS' research development coordinator, began working on bringing together the concert last summer.

Henry is looking forward to the concert and enjoys the link between the artist's name and the month the show falls on.

"Valentine's Day, her name [Love], our services — it just all came together," Henry says.

Love's debut CD "Z Therapy" in 1990 introduced her self-described "funkability" sound to music lovers. One critic labeled

her sound "Afro-Celtic," and that's how her music is now widely known.

Since her debut CD, Love has released five more albums, including the most recent one, "Shum Ticky." That recording was received warmly by critics and audiences alike.

"I didn't set out to be unique," Love says in a press release. "I think I was defined by my limitations."

"I didn't have the attention span to sit there and get every nuance of jazz, blues, swing, bluegrass or Celtic music," she adds.

Love's "world music" appeal and her fusion of numerous music genres are apparent and that's what brings the crowds in, especially in the Northwest.

Kelley, who will open for Love, has made a name for herself locally and nationally. She has been playing professionally since the age of 14 and has recorded two solo CDs, in addition to the two she's recorded with Babe with Axes.

Combining Kelley, the self-titled "eccentric fretless bass goddess," with Love and her "hip Appalachian" style should make for an amazing night of music, all to benefit a good cause.

Tickets for the show are \$20 and are available at the WOW Hall, 291 W. Eighth Ave., the EMU Box Office, House of Records, CD World and at the SASS office, 591 W. 19th St. The music begins at 8:30 p.m.

Reed & Cross

Near the corner of Coburg & Oakway roads
Eugene • 484-1244



A Dozen Wrapped Roses for \$19⁹⁵



Pisces:

What are you doing this weekend?
Check your

UO School of Music World Music Series presents

Gamelan Music and Shadow Puppetry of Java

Featuring internationally renowned shadow-puppet master and musician Widiyanto Putro with the Eugene-based Gamelan Sari Pandhawa

Saturday, Feb. 12 • 8 p.m.
BEALL CONCERT HALL

\$10 Gen. Admission, \$8 Students/Seniors, available at the door. For info, call Mark Levy at 346-2852.

