



Mark McCambridge Emerald

Victor Wooten and his band dazzled a crowded house at the McDonald Theater on Monday night.

Wooten

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noise, the band rejoined and broke into a cover of "Purple Haze" followed by "Iron Man." I'm pretty sure Regi was actually having a seizure and making it play the guitar.

It's joyous to see a group of musicians having so much fun in the act of creation. Victor and Regi recklessly flipped, swung and tossed their instruments — at one point playing each other's simultaneously. Watson gave the funniest merchandise pitch I have ever heard by working the word into his 10-minute solo as if it were another drum to hit. There was such a

light-hearted air to the performance, it was like sitting in on a practice session, except with light effects.

But for all of the flash and fun, the highlight of the show was Victor stepping on stage alone for the encore. He created a hypnotic melody and looped it before taking the opportunity to talk about Martin Luther King Jr. on his national holiday.

Victor spoke calmly, saying King's dream hasn't yet been achieved, and we all need to continue working for it.

Now, I'm not the crying type. But when Victor struck the first harmonic notes of "Amazing Grace," tears welled up. After a touching speech, his impassioned and lively

reworking of this gospel was at once a call to action and an assurance — like a mother saying, "Everything will be all right."

Had the show ended there, there would have been no complaints. But for the grand finale, the band rejoined Wooten and got the whole audience singing along: "People. Show your love, good people."

I walked away from the theater feeling as if my head had fallen asleep from over-stimulation. But I was smiling like a baby for no good reason.

Contact the Pulse columnist at masonwest@dailymerald.com. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

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7:00 Nightly Sun Mat 2:10pm [PG]

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soon: RABBIT PROOF FENCE [PG]

BOWLING FOR COLUMBINE
4:45, 7:15 & 9:40 Nightly
Sat & Sun Mat 2:20pm [R]

FAR FROM HEAVEN
4:55 Nightly Final Week! No Kidding!
soon: REAL WOMEN HAVE CURVES [PG-13]

EROTIC TALES 11:35 Nightly
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