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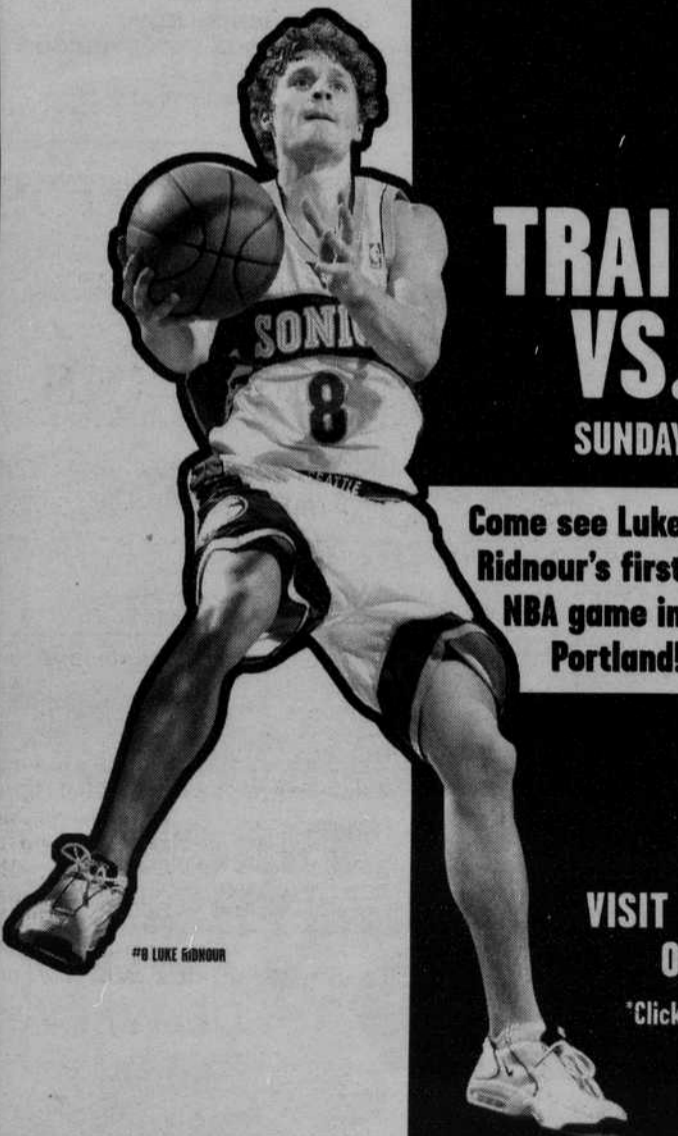
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Joggers add twist to garage rock on innovative CD

The Portland-based band's latest album, 'Solid Guild,' features four-part harmonies paired with staccato guitar

By Helen Schumacher
Pulse Columnist

CD REVIEW

The music of The Joggers holds an awkward glee — the kind that inspires one to make spastic pelvic thrusts and throw elbows, even as the songs sound ready to collapse into themselves at any given moment.

Since signing to New York label StarTime International Records (home to like-minded bands like The Walkmen and French Kicks), the Portland-based group has been receiving the national recognition it deserves.

The group's newest album, "Solid Guild," starts with the pop-based, garage rock sound of unpolished vocals and staccato guitar parts. But instead of working inside the suburban, vinyl-sided box that similar bands find themselves inside, The Joggers shift and twist their songs, matching the instrumentation to singer/guitarist Ben Whitesides' strident vocals.

At times, Whitesides' vocals sound like they belong on a Strokes album, but his aren't the only ones that shape the music. In fact, all the members (the band is rounded out with Darrell Bourque, Murphy Kasiewicz and Jake Morris) contribute vocals. The Joggers may actually be indie rock's only

barbershop quartet. Songs like "Back to the Future" and "Neon Undercarriage" give way to the four-part harmonies usually reserved for choirboys.

Halfway through "Back to the Future," the song breaks down into an a cappella round with the band singing "Back to the future falling slow as snow on your shoulders / a shadow from the spring sparks you can't explain before you sleep / waiting to kill the signals that the garden wouldn't grow." With four different voices singing, the song is rich in texture, even during the moments without instrumentation.

Also, the band seems to have an excellent understanding of texture and



Courtesy

how to layer instruments to give their music an emotional arc. Chords roll and then hop between thumping drums and basslines. The Joggers know how to make the whole bigger than the parts. "Solid Guild" is just one more reason for the Portland music scene to be proud of itself.

Contact the Pulse columnist at helenschumacher@dailyemerald.com.

DANCE

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before," Waddell said. "It brings together all the dance troops in town to support a really good cause."

Wongai West African Dance performer Kristine DiPalma said she has attended Dance for a Reason several times and was excited to participate this year.

"I feel great," she said after performing a fast-paced routine that had the audience clapping along. "We do rhythms that were taught to us by teachers from Ghana."

The Downtown Athletic Club Nooners, a dance group open to everyone, performed songs from several different genres including hip-hop and hard rock. Program narrator and former DAC Nooners member Russ Pierson said the group, which has done Dance for a Reason for four years, began as a basic aerobics class and now consists of about 20 members.

"Yes, we are feeling it all right," he said.

Performances included a tap piece by Musical Feet dance school founding director Jeanette Frame, a country-themed dance by the Eugene Youth Ballet and a high-energy performance to Outkast song "Speedballin'" by about 30 sweatshirt-clad Zreliak Artistic Performing Productions dancers.

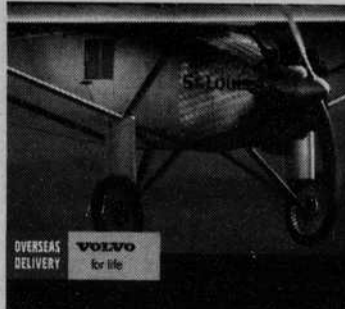
House Manager and LCC dance student Emily Joyce said the event draws a variety of participants because Morrow asks dancers to display what they are working on.

"So many components of the community are involved," she said.

Morrow described Dance for a Reason as a user-friendly fund-raiser that she wishes she could do more often.

"There is not always a venue for different styles of dance," Morrow said. "It is a high-end variety show."

Contact the freelance editor at jennifersudick@dailyemerald.com.



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