



Wednesday, December 17, 2003

New Saturday concert series begins in January

By *Kalee Iacoangeli, OU Student Writer*

Beginning in January, **Residence Hall Programming** will offer a new Saturday concert series with free concerts for all OU students throughout the winter semester.

The new series kicks off Jan. 17 at 8 p.m. when OU welcomes back the musical comedy group J Chris Newberg and the Rest, who previously opened for Friday Night Live guest Dustin Diamond on Oct. 17. On Jan. 31, Tamara Bedricky, a recent OU graduate who has performed in clubs and at colleges from Detroit to Los Angeles, will perform. The series then ends for the semester on March 27 with singer/songwriter/guitarist Jason LeVasseur.

J Chris Newberg and the Rest

Newberg began adding comedy to his musical shows while on the road with Detroit rock band, the Vudu Hippies. Whenever a delay or technical problem interrupted the band's performance, he would keep the crowds entertained with his on-the-spot songs, commonly using audience members' lives as his lyrical inspiration.

Making his debut in September 2000, Newberg's talent of turning everyday situations into improvisational, acoustic guitar tunes has captured audiences from all across the country. Along with four CD's, Newberg's résumé includes opening for two sold-out Counting Crows and Oasis shows, opening up for Grand Funk Railroad, and playing alongside Fuel at L.A.'s Viper Room.

Tamara Bedricky

Bedricky has performed in New York's Central Park alongside recording artist Michelle Branch, was chosen as one of the five up-and-coming female artists in the country in the Pantene Pro-Voice music competition, and performed at the 2003 Detroit Music Awards.

Her music, inspired by such artists as Sheryl Crow, Sting and Sarah McLaughlin, has captivated audiences in clubs and colleges from Detroit to Los Angeles. On Jan. 31, she will return to her alma mater to showcase her talents in the second performance of the Saturday concert series.

Jason LeVasseur

LeVasseur was born in the United States, but spent much of his youth in Mexico and Belgium. He also has studied French, Spanish and Italian. This experience has allowed him to create an extremely diverse musical style. His new live album, "The Opening Guy," features songs from all different venues, ranging from blues to rock to pop. This unique combination has won him tremendous acclaim with audiences throughout the nation.

Along with being recognized as the National Association for Campus Activities' "Music Artist of The Year" and "Best Small Venue Performer" in 2002 by "Campus Activities Magazine," LeVasseur has performed on stage with big name artists, such as the Dave Matthews Band, John Mayer, The Wallflowers, Widespread Panic and Vertical Horizon.

SUMMARY

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