



Wednesday, March 31, 2004

## National award winner wraps up concert series

By *Kalee Iacoangeli, OU Student Writer*

The newly implemented Saturday Night Sounds concert series came to a close for the season March 27 with the national award-winning musician Jason Levasseur.

Levasseur, who was named the best musical performer of 2004 by "Campus Activities Magazine," didn't stop short of giving the OU audience a stellar performance.

Combining his talents of vocals, guitar and drums, Levasseur created an entertaining ensemble that encompassed many genres of music. Along with his own songs, his unique additions of contemporary covers from such artists as Christina Aguilera, Eminem, Sir Mix-A-Lot, OutKast and even Cindy Lauper left audience members laughing and singing along.

"He did a really nice job of relating his material to the audience. I thought that was cool," said freshman Curtis O'Morrow.

Levasseur has performed on stage with big name artists, such as the Dave Matthews Band, John Mayer, The Wallflowers, Widespread Panic and Vertical Horizon. He 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 country.

"He had great stage presence, you could tell he was a natural performer and that he loves what he does," said sophomore Julie Swidwinski. "I would really like to see him back here again."

**Residence Hall Programming** offered the new Saturday concert series to all OU students for free throughout the winter semester. Besides Levasseur, other performances included musical comedy group J Chris Newberg and the Rest and OU alumna Tamara Bedricky, who has performed in clubs and at colleges from Detroit to Los Angeles.

*With the success of the first season, plans are being made for the concert series to continue in the fall.*

### SUMMARY

The newly implemented Saturday Night Sounds concert series came to a close for the season March 27 with the national award-winning musician Jason Levasseur. Combining his talents of vocals, guitar and drums, Levasseur created an entertaining ensemble that encompassed many genres of music.

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