

# Arts & Entertainment

## WAKE Radio hosts two acoustic sets

By Travis Langdon  
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Students tuning into WAKE Radio between 5:30 and 8:30 p.m. March 1 were treated to live acoustic sets from two Virginia-based bands that stopped by the station's studio before their show at Ziggy's later that night.

The headlining act, Agents of Good Roots, brought not only a stripped-down version of the distinct sound the band has been developing since starting out in Richmond's college music scene, but also another up-and-coming group called Carbon Leaf. The two bands are currently touring the East Coast together, convincing audiences along the way that they are dedicated musicians who can only continue to gain momentum.

The staff at WAKE Radio went to great lengths to accommodate the bands for the jam session, and sophomore Paul Bullock, the director of internal affairs, said he was pleased with the results.

"I spoke on the phone with one of the members of Carbon Leaf and got him in touch with Jay Stephens, the guy who owns Ziggy's. That show got set up and Carbon Leaf agreed to play here, too. They talked to Agents, and those guys were interested, so the whole thing came together very easily. It's been exciting getting everything together," Bullock said.

The show started out with an interview between WAKE Radio staffers and members of both bands. Afterwards, the musicians picked up acoustic instruments and played for about an hour.

The performance gave both groups the opportunity to expose new listeners to their respective styles.

According to Andrew Winn, the lead guitarist and vocalist for Agents of Good Roots, his band's strength lies in its ability to craft solid tunes in the practice



Courtesy of www.carbonleaf.com

Carbon Leaf (above) and Agents of Good Roots (right) made an appearance at the WAKE Radio station March 1 for a simulcast interview and acoustic set. Both bands appeared at Ziggy's later that night.

"We're just a rock and roll band ... Our roots are in jazz and funk, but we're just a rock and roll band."

Andrew Winn

Lead guitarist/vocalist, Agents of Good Roots

room and give them new life onstage. The band has put this philosophy to the test since first coming together in 1995 by playing over 200 shows a year to crowds around the country.

"The beginning was all about playing, but over time the quality of the song became prominent," Winn said. "We're really a band about songs. It's the way we feel about pop in general. I used to like bands, now I like songs, any type, classic songs, great songs. Each night we ex-

ecute each song while bringing it to a new level giving it fresh interpretations."

Most recently, the group has attempted to capture this meticulous effort at songwriting on its RCA debut, *One By One*, which was preceded by two independently produced albums. The major-label release paved the way for larger gigs, including a spot on the bill for the 1999 H.O.R.D.E. Festival and as the opening act for the Dave Matthews Band's summer tour.

Agents of Good Roots sees itself as a simple band, influenced by various schools of music.

"We're just a rock and roll band," Winn said. "Our roots are in jazz and funk, but we're just a rock and roll band."

Carbon Leaf is no stranger to the stage either. Though their sound is a bit more rooted in folk, these musicians have been



Courtesy of RCA Records

tweaking their style since the mid-'90s. Things started to pick up for the quintet in 1999 when it released its latest album, *Ether-Electrified Porch Music*, and was picked as runner-up in Conan O'Brien's Best Unsigned Band Contest. With a push from Agents of Good Roots, Carbon Leaf will get a chance to play before

new audiences this spring, and will surely pick up some fans in the process.

Bullock said that the staff at WAKE Radio hopes similar events will materialize in the future, as long as students stay interested. For updates stay tuned to WAKE Radio's Webpage at [www.radio.wfu.edu](http://www.radio.wfu.edu).

## Student musicians shine in Giles-Harris competition

Old Gold and Black Staff Report

The 23rd Annual Christopher Giles and Lucille S. Harris Competitions in Musical Performance took place Feb. 19 in Brendle Recital Hall. This year, 13 students participated in the competition, with six receiving awards or honorable mention.

The competition was originally set up by Giles and Harris, two former professors of music who are dedicated to the advancement of music and the arts. Both Giles and Harris contribute money to the music department to ensure that students continue to be enriched.

Every year the competition is divided into two parts - a piano competition that typically takes place in the morning, and an open competition, which includes vocalists and other instrumentalists, takes place in the afternoon.

This year the open competition included seven vocalists and students of the flute, organ, viola and saxophone.

Three judges from outside the university evaluate each competition. The judges are musicians and often teachers, too.

Competitors must be advanced performers, and they also must participate in some kind of private study in their discipline. The caliber of performers is usually high, and this year was no exception.

"This year I would not have wanted to be a judge. All of the musicians gave such stellar performances that it must have been difficult to pick winners," said senior vocalist Anne Kasab.



Courtesy of News Services

Sophomore Ben Giles, freshman Cynthia Irby and senior Meta Barhan are three pianists who were recognized at the 23rd Annual Giles-Harris Competitions in Musical Performance.

"This year I would not have wanted to be a judge. All of the musicians gave such stellar performances that it must have been difficult to pick winners."

Anne Kasab  
Senior Vocalist

Sophomore Jamie Raudensky won first place in the open competition after giving an outstanding viola performance. The prize

is called the Joseph Pleasant and Marguerite Nutt Sloan Award, and this is Raudensky's second year in a row to win it.

Freshman organist Matthew Emkey came in second in the open competition followed by freshman saxophonist Jeremiah Fortune.

In the piano competition, freshman Cynthia Irby placed first, and senior Meta Barhan came in second. Sophomore Ben Woodrow Giles won the Ward Virts Prize for Pianistic Expressiveness.

## Interactive program explores music

Two classical composers will bring a multimedia symposium to campus that will explore the different music of the past 2000 years

By Tamara Dunn  
Assistant A&E Editor

As an installment to the university's Year of Science and Technology theme, the music department will present a weeklong interactive symposium titled "The Ultimate Symphonius 2000" March 13-16 in Brendle Recital Hall.

During the week, the event will host a seven-part exploration of the music and arts of the last 2000 years in celebration of the new millennium.

The event is a collage of live synthesizer music controlled by software that the audience can operate.

Elements, such as dance, literature and music, belonging to various eras of history are entwined with technology to create original sounds that will be heard throughout the events.

The week's activities conclude at 8 p.m. March 16 with a performance by the creators of the symposium, contemporary classical composers and the husband-and-wife team of Barton and Priscilla McLean. The McLeans have created these events as a means to celebrate the growth of music over time and to prepare the future for the combination between the arts and science.

"The Ultimate Symphonius" will travel to other colleges and universities such as Hamilton College in New York and Missouri Western State College later this spring.



Courtesy of www.members.aol.com/mclmix2

A performance by contemporary classical composers Priscilla and Barton McLean will conclude the week long "The Ultimate Symphonius 2000" at 8 p.m. March 16 in Brendle Recital Hall.

ploration. However, the mix of people inside the space will be the generators of the events.

Visitors will have the chance to control music at their pace and style with the aid of five "creative music" stations. One station, titled "Textures and Styles," allows participants to select sound samples arranged in a timeline or in a collection of religious and native chants.

The samples range from an ancient Greek piece to 20th-century music, and the chants include works from the realms of South America and Norway. Participants can also mix several sets of music into continuous loops with the aid of 2,000 years worth of compositions from opera to folk music.

Video and other visual means are employed in two stations to illustrate the progression of the arts. In the video composed by Priscilla McLean titled "MILLing in the ENNIUM," visitors can learn about the shifts in art from the Roman Empire to the emer-

gence of American jazz. Another station features a virtual reality celebration of the arts as a timeless medium.

The week concludes with the McLeans' "Inside the Time Machine." Similar to the stations, this performance explores the ongoing cycle of music from the beginning of creation to timelessness. In "Happy Days" the McLeans use party instruments and music boxes to create the scenes of a New Year's Eve party. "In the Beginning" is considered to be an avant-garde use of voice and classic music when it was first performed in the 1970s, and it is influenced by the Greek mythology. "Jambori Rimba!" has roots in the sounds of the Peruvian and Malaysian rainforests and their native people.

Included in the performance are backdrops of video images to accompany the subject of the music.

For more information about the McLeans and the "Ultimate Symphonius 2000," call Ext. 5364.