

Manzarek album representative

By JOHN VANORE
Staff Writer

Second only to the death of Jimi Hendrix, one of the most significant tragedies of rock was the loss of Jim Morrison. After his death, the Doors put out two albums and then dissolved the group to go their separate ways. The best known of the remaining Doors was their keyboard player, Ray Manzarek.

Ever since eighth grade I've thought that Manzarek was great. In my bubble gum/soul oriented grammar school, I defended his keyboard genius against onslaughts from Vanilla Fudge (barf!) and Young Rascals (before they dropped

the "Young") fans. That's quite a long time.

Manzarek's jazz roots and Morrison's theatrics and lyrics really held the Doors together. Robby Krieger and John Densmore were basically expendable, but the other two were essential. When Morrison died, Manzarek took over the group, and we then got a glimpse of how strong his influence was on the Doors' music.

His first solo release, "Golden Scarab," kind of fell flat, but his new LP, "The Whole Thing Started with Rock and Roll, Now It's Out of Control," (that's a mouthful) puts Manzarek up on a level with Keith

Emerson and Rick Wakeman. Not that their styles are at all similar; Manzarek isn't diddling with Wakeman's orchestral rock ego trip, and Emerson is rather unique. But take a look at the credits on the album jacket — Manzarek plays every keyboard instrument in creation and then some, and plays them all magnificently to boot.

The instrumentation on this album is outstanding, but Manzarek can't take all the credit himself. His back-up band includes guitarist Joe Walsh (formerly of the James Gang, now on a solo career), and vocalists Flo and Eddie.

Let's look at the songs themselves. The title cut is a good, fast number with lots of jazz input, especially on Manzarek's piano. "The Gambler" has to be one of the best cuts on the album and Manzarek shares the spotlight on this number somewhat with Walsh on guitar, until he opens up a bit on an organ solo. "Whirling Dervish" is just that, an instrumental where Manzarek takes a back seat to the horn section, especially the saxes, but it tends to wear thin after a while. And "Begin the World Again" is the Doors all over again as Manzarek's keyboards come to the foreground once more. The song evolves into a sort of "Book of Genesis" according to Manzarek, with lyrics full of "Let there be . . ."

Side two opens with Satanic laughter a la Morrison on "I Wake up Screaming," an amusing song about nightmares. It's cute, but no milestone of musical accomplishment. It does, however, feature a bit of poetry written by Morrison.

"Art Deco Fandango" is pure jazz-blues fusion, with clarinets and horns complementing Manzarek's tack piano for a light-hearted, refreshing change of pace.

"Bicentennial Blues (Love It or Leave It)" really fitted the style of "L. A. Woman," the last album released by the Doors with Morrison. The keyboard and guitar riffs are overly reminiscent of their style for about the first half, but the organ/guitar/percussion takes on a Santana-like sound for a while. But wait — right in the middle Manzarek breaks out in the intro to "Light My Fire," to lead up to his final vocals.

"Bicentennial Blues" is probably the best selection, by virtue of Manzarek's organ playing, and it, thus, gains an edge over "The Gambler."

"Perfumed Garden," the finale, is notable for being rather undistinguished. At any rate, "Art Deco Fandango" and "Bicentennial Blues" offset any disillusionments in the first and last songs of side two. And they do it in spades.

All I can say in summation is that Manzarek is a superbly gifted performer and that "The Whole Thing Started with Rock and Roll . . ." is an excellent and varied showcase for his talents. I'm sure that anyone who listens to the album will agree.

Well, I'm sorry I broke my promise. Last week, I said I'd write a good, vicious review, but I felt that this was far more significant. Next week, you'll probably be reading about Alice Cooper's latest offering, unless I find something newer and more relevant, so you'll still get your mudslinging. Many thanks to Ernie at Music-

land for supplying the copy of the album used here.

★★★

It looks like Town Hall beat me to the punch with their questionnaire. But will somebody please tell them to take Humble Pie off the list? The Pie disbanded after their American tour, which the March 23 performance in Houston was a part of.

My choices were BTO, Lynyrd Skynyrd, ELP, Linda Ronstadt and the Average White Band. But I'm not going to hold my breath. If any one of those groups makes it here, I'll eat my words and swallow my pride. And if they get ELP, I'll eat my hat too (campaign hat, no less).

★★★

For the benefit of you who listened for my radio show Sunday, apologies are in order.

I arrived at the Student Government Radio station early that afternoon only to be informed the transmitter was down (inoperable).

I hope to be on the air next Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.

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Campus briefs

Zumwalt talks

Adm. Elmo Zumwalt, former Chief of Naval Operations, will give a lecture, Wednesday. Sponsored by the College of Geosciences as part of the University Lecture Series, Zumwalt will speak at 8 p.m. in Zachry Engineering Center on "Morality in Government."

Senior announcements

Graduating seniors who ordered announcements may pick them up beginning April 17. The orders will be distributed in Rooms A and B of the Student Program Office, Memorial Student Center between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Extra graduation announcements will go on sale April 21. They will be available at the same location on a first come, first served basis.

Math contest

A freshman and sophomore Math Contest will be held Wednesday 7:30-9:30 p.m. in room 223 Academic for freshmen and room 225 Academic for sophomores. A freshman is eligible to participate if he was not classified above freshman last September. Sophomores are eligible if classified sophomore last September 1. The two-hour examination may include questions on math as high as the math 307 level for sophomores and questions on algebra, trigonometry, analytic geometry and calculus as high as the math 121 level for freshmen. Prizes will be \$50 for first place, \$30 for second place and \$20 for third place.

Social responsibility

The Great Issues Committee of TAMU will present Harvard graduate and award-winning, investigative reporter Paul Brodeur on "The Social Responsibility of the Corporation" at 8 p.m. in room 225 of the Rudder Tower April 17. Admission is free and is open to the general public.

Cancer symposium

A Symposium on Cancer and exhibits on all aspects of cancer research will be presented in the MSC. Sponsored by the TAMU Microbiology Society, the symposium will include a seminar on the scientific and medical aspects of cancer moderated by Dr. John Hall from 1-5 p.m. An exhibit on quitting smoking will be presented at 7:30 p.m.

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