

Jack Daniel's Silver Cornet Band brings music, small-town humor

By Shane Hall
Reviewer

Review

Rudder Auditorium was instantly transformed to Lynchburg, Tennessee, circa 1910, Sunday afternoon as Mr. Jack Daniel's Original Silver Cornet Band brought their blend of small-town humor and ragtime music to Texas A&M in a concert sponsored by MSC-OPAS.

Bandleader "Perfessor" David Coffee led the audience, by way of imagination, to the small Tennessee town's homecoming celebration as the band marched onstage performing the opening song "Hello Ma Honey."

The 12 musicians then took their seats on the onstage gazebo bandstand to begin the first act.

"On the Banks of the Walbash," the second song of the night, featured a short tuba solo by Marcus Arnold. During the concert, individual musicians had the opportunity to take the lead with their instruments.

Scott Hanson, the band's newest member, demonstrated his mastery of the baritone horn on "Glow Worm."

Highlights of the first act included "Carolina in the Mornin'," in which the horn players sang the lyrics to a musical backing of banjo, drums and xylophone, and the popular "And

the Band Played On," which was simply spectacular.

But there is more to the band's concerts than just music. Bandleader Coffee gave short monologues full of small-town, backwoods humor between songs.

With his stories of Lynchburg folk such as friendly Uncle Pert the moonshiner ("Not an unfriendly hair on his head," Coffee declared. "Ain't got but two or three hairs, but they're all friendly"), Coffee proved his ability to make people laugh.

The music continued to sound great. "Tennessee Squire Dance" was given a rousing treatment to end the first act, which was followed by a short intermission.

To begin the second act, banjo player Wiley Porter took a seat onstage and picked his way through a short number. Xylophonist Michael Lorenz then joined him and soon all of the musicians began arriving one by one, all the while playing the strains of "Jovial Jaspers."

Coffee then began to tell the story of the three trees, accompanied by musical sound effects to represent the fluffy rabbit, the reventuer, the spring and the trees.



Graphic by Carol Wells

The audience's approval rang quite clear by means of the laughter that ripped through the auditorium.

Hymns were then brought into the show as the band fused "A Balm in Gilead" and "The Church is One Foundation" into a reverent and memorable performance. As a benedictory note, this talented group of musicians performed another short hymn later in the concert.

With the Italian opera classic, "Largo Al Factorum," cornet player Gary Armstrong took the lead with his hypnotic playing. It proved to be

a refreshing change from listening to the fat lady sing.

The definite highlight of the show came during a two-song tribute to the ragtime jazz of New Orleans.

Tenor horn player Louis Brown took the lead on "New Orleans Interlude," which also featured Lorenz on rub board and Hanson on trombone. The addition of Porter's banjo and drummer Steve Goldenberg made for a rollicking good time.

The Jack Daniel's Band's rendition of "When the Saints Go Marchin' In" was no less spectacular.

The entire band gave their all amidst the clapping along of the audience who were loving every minute of it.

After two final numbers and the benedictory note, Coffee thanked the audience for the use of their imaginations and led the band marching offstage to thunderous applause. The crowd in attendance was then returned to College Station, circa 1988.

For hayseed humor, spirited music and an all around good time, Mr. Jack Daniel's Original Silver Cornet Band is hard to beat. It's almost as much fun as Mr. Daniel's famous whiskey.

UT researchers recreate physics of Jupiter red spot

AUSTIN (AP) — With plastic beads and a giant spinning tank of water, some University of Texas scientists have re-created what they believe to be the physics of the Great Red Spot of the planet Jupiter.

Physicist Harry Swinney and two graduate students created their own miniature Red Spot — an orphan vortex, or whirlpool, of beads sitting at rest amid a larger turbulent flow.

"We think it simulates the es-

sential physics of the situation on Jupiter that led to development of the persistent Red Spot," Swinney said. "Of course, we have no information as to why Jupiter's spot is red."

The Red Spot, one of the solar system's prominent landmarks, is a giant oval about 25,000 miles long and 8,000 miles wide — large enough to swallow several Earths.

The first observation of Great Red Spot "was probably in 1664 by British astronomer Robert Hooke," Swinney said. "The Voyager spacecraft (in 1979) showed the atmospheric flow really was turbulence. The spot looks like a hurricane but, unlike a hurricane, it could last for hundreds of thousands of years."

Swinney, Joel Sommeria-Klein and Steven Myers, of the university's Center for Non-linear Dynamics, based their experiment on a computer simulation by Philip Marcus of the University of California-Berkeley.

Marcus contended the turbulent chaos of a rapidly rotating fluid could create a single coherent vortex spontaneously. The Texas researchers, whose results recently were published in the professional journal Nature, say they have confirmed Marcus' prediction.

With a circular tank spinning at the rate of four times a second, the UT researchers saw the water establish a shear zone, or distortion, in which some water moved in one direction while the rest moved in the opposite direction.

Gradually, they saw tiny vortices, or whirlpools, evolve and combine until a single oval vortex was formed, bounded by the edges of the shear zone.

"We have shown that turbulent flow with large shear in a rotating system can produce a coherent vortex that lasts as long as the condition lasts," said Swinney.

Hispanic leaders promise protest of Alamo movie

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The embattled movie about 13 days of fighting at the Alamo in Texas' battle for independence peacefully opened at a private screening as critics promised to protest the public debut Sunday.

Though the outcome of the fighting at the Alamo is well known, the controversy between the producers of the film "Alamo — The Price of Freedom" and Hispanic leaders continues.

The film's critics, charging it misrepresents the role of Tejanos who defended the Alamo against the Mexicans, planned to protest Sunday's public opening and ribbon-cutting by Gov. Bill Clements.

A private gala premiere on Saturday night raised \$25,000 for the

Daughters of the Republic of Texas' library, which is located at the Alamo. The movie is being shown on the 60-foot-high screen of the IMAX theater at the city's new Rivercenter complex.

"We certainly are not ignorant about history," said Kieth Merrill, the film's director and producer, responding to critics' claims.

"But where there is no definitive history, then all of us — each in their own way — should develop their own responsibility for learning about the story."

Ray Herbeck, the associate producer and assistant director, said "It's 90 percent on the money historically, and 10 percent is based on a toss of a coin."

AIDS

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pool would provide protection for these people, the insurance representatives said.

Robert Blevins, executive director of the Texas Life Insurance Association, advocated an insurance pool but stressed that many uninsurable people cannot afford to pay the premium required by a pool.

"Pooling for the uninsurables is an alternative, but there's one drawback," Blevins said. "And that's that a person who makes \$600 a month can't afford to pay \$200 a month for insurance. And so if the committee decides to recommend pooling, where are the funds going to come from? Somebody's got to finance it. We don't want to form a pool ourselves."

Amanda Sheedy, counsel to the Health Insurance Association of

America, said the state should subsidize the insurance pool.

"Fifteen states have enacted legislation that form insurance pools, and there are subsidies for low-income people," Sheedy said. "Some states fund a large portion of the pools."

The cry for increased state funding extended beyond the insurance issue. Dr. Douglas Hurley, president of the Texas Infectious Disease Society, said Texas should develop a centralized AIDS policy funded by the state.

"This is a time for the state to take a leadership role and to do that it requires funds and coordination," Hurley said. "To provide health care, it's going to require money. And it's been a long tradition in Texas that the state provide for the problems that affect the whole state."

Group fights Texas taking state language

DALLAS (AP) — A broad-based coalition is urging voters to reject a resolution on the Republican Party primary ballot to make English the official language of Texas and the United States.

Speakers for several groups, including the Community Task Force Against Official English Language Amendments, in the Dallas-based coalition said Friday that the non-binding resolution is an attack on Hispanic culture and the Spanish language.

The speakers said their groups will oppose any ballot measures or legislative proposals to declare English as the state's official language.

If approved Tuesday, the resolution could fuel efforts to pass a similar law at the next session of the Texas Legislature, opponents said at the Dallas City Hall rally.

Dallas Mayor Annette Strauss released a statement that said the movement "could undermine the consensus, cooperation and vital sense of commonality of purpose" needed to keep the city going strong.



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