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1991 - today	
1992 - today	
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Bluesman boogies with great new album

By TODD BLACKMON

Arts & Entertainment Editor of THE BATTALION

"Pinetop's Boogie Woogie" Antone's Records

"When Adam and Eve first saw each other, that's when the blues started. No matter what any-body says, it comes down to the same thing: a man, a woman, and a broken heart and a broken home- You know what I mean?

-John Lee Hooker

Judging from Pinetop Perkins' new album, "Pinetop's Boogie Woogie," I think he would agree with Mr. Hooker's statement, because the blues are exactly what Pinetop delivers.

You will not hear any song from this album on the radio. These songs surpass the grade of topforty fluff that seems to spew from today's stereos. Simply put, "Pinetop's Boogie Woogie" is blues at its finest.

I believe this album should have been made at

I believe this album should have been made at least 30 years ago. To be honest, it would have been better appreciated then, simply because the blues were more popular.

This is a man who has played with Robert Nighthawk, Sonny Boy Williamson and the legendary Muddy Waters — people who redefined

Therefore, I guess it's safe to say Pinetop has the background to sing the blues properly. He began performing as a teenager in 1913, but his voice still has that commanding edge needed to dominate the songs. He is one of the last of the great bluesmen, as the title track proves.

This album presents a stripped-down, no-non-sense approach to what blues music should be. There are no special effects, synthesizers or drum.

There are no special effects, synthesizers or drum machines, just the simple, heart-felt music you would expect from the Mississippi Delta.

That is not to say this album is filled with overly dramatic songs wallowing in self-pity. On the



Pinetop Perkins defines the blues on his new album

contrary, some of these songs are rather upbed "Look on Yonder Wall" and "High Heel Sneeders" bounce along rapidly and really highlight Pinetop's outstanding piano playing.

"Pinetop's Boogie Woogie" also has somed the finest harmonica playing I've ever listened by James Wilson and Kim Cotton hammer it out out songs like "Sunny Road Blues" and "You Dot Have to Go." Have to Go."

I have nothing negative to say about this bum. The lyrics are great, and the playing is missistently outstanding. If you are tired of the mainstream music radio stations pick for you, "Pinetop's Boogie-Woogie." It will fit like and sweater that's been left in the closet for the past

Ensemble brings Russia to Texas A&M

By TODD BLACKMON

Arts & Entertainment Editor of THE BATTALION

The Incomparable Red Star Red Army Chorus and Dance Ensemble brought more than just musical talent to Rudder Auditorium Saturday night - they brought the gift of their Russian culture.

The two-and-a-half hour show included a choir, orchestra and dance troupe, and the groups com-

bined their talents to create a truly enjoyable show.
The chorus's rendition of various Russian songs fascinated me. There was no fixed plot to the performance, just a sequence of various folk songs. Several different soloists led the choir through these old sto-

ries of "Mother Russia. The lyrics were in Russian, but I only partly wish I had understood the words. The songs were beautiful, and I was spellbound by the charming melodies that were well-supported by the orchestra. I would have loved to understand the narrative within the songs, but the sound of the Russian language made

the performances special. To have such as translated into English would have spoiled its

The dance troupe appeared in several of songs, and I was amazed at their graceful jumps spins. The outstanding choreography of the troup was highlighted by a mock swordfight in song, "Cossacks' Dance." Their bright, colorful tumes lit up the stage and contrasted with the muniforms the choir and orchestra wore.

The Texas A&M Singing Cadets joined them in singing the National Anthem to open thesh They also closed the performance together sing

'God Bless America.' I believe there is not an American perform group comparable to the Red Army Chorus Dance Ensemble. That is not to say it was nece ly better than musicals originating from New Y or Los Angeles. It's just that the Russian gr brought the pride of their Russian heritage, w was indeed a rare treat.

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