

Van Morrison's new release is pleasant, mellow 'Too Long In Exile' is heavy on sax

By SUSAN OWEN

The Battalion

"Too Long In Exile"
Van Morrison
Blues/Jazz
PolyGram Records
Album courtesy of CD Warehouse

Smooth, mellow, accessible blues. Not too raw, not too harsh, heavy on the saxophone. That's the short version of Van Morrison's latest album, "Too Long In Exile." Maybe he's been exiled too long from the charts. Morrison has never been much interested in finding mainstream approval, although he's tripped across it once or twice. His biggest hit was "Brown Eyed Girl," which went Top Ten in 1967; "Domino" did the same in 1970. And though he's had other successful singles ("Moondance," "Baby Please Don't Go"), Morrison has pursued his own very individual brand of music through more than two dozen solo albums. He was raised in Belfast, Ireland, on blues records, and "Exile" pays tribute to that background. The album features two duets with seminal Mississippi bluesman John Lee Hooker and a cover of "Good Morning Little Schoolgirl," an old Sonny Boy Williamson song.

Morrison's own sound is characterized by a lot of horns and a little bit of New Orleans. There's a lot of saxophone on this album and it's all good, with Candy Dulfer on alto. "Close Enough to Jazz" (the title of one instrumental track) about sums it up. "Exile" doesn't have the sheer misery of some of Morrison's earlier work, but it also misses being the vacuous pop-jazz "Domino" and "Moondance" can sound like. Morrison's lyrics strike a pleasant middle ground on this album, carried by his powerful bluesy voice. The man has a good share of tortured Irish poet in him, and his lyrics are basic but not obvious. He uses ordinary words but communicates more than ordinary feeling. It's that depth which keeps his writing above standard. One song borrows directly from a fellow tortured Irishman, setting William Butler Yeats' poem "Before The World Was Made" to a soft, dancing tune. Another remarkable song is Morrison's cover, with Hooker, of his 1965 hit "Gloria," from his days as a member of Them. "Exile" is a pleasant, balanced, very listenable album. Morrison's



Van Morrison's new release, 'Too Long In Exile,' is not too raw, not too harsh and heavy on the saxophone. It strikes a nice middle ground.

occasional bleating (imitated once or twice by the sax) and his way of repeating bars and phrases over and over may make you think your CD is skipping in a couple of places, but hang in there.

Miller

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You'll keep listening. Miller never fails to keep you interested. But there's still something absent from this album. The song "Conversation" sounds crisp and deep, and there's a sing-talk that grabs your ears in the beginning, the kind of chatty style Miller's famous for. You'll almost want to start jamming along. But you'll once again be disappointed when the song doesn't develop

into anything more than a dry bluesy tune. I love those acoustic guitars, but not when a song lacks stability. It's not easy for a rock band to come back with an album that sounds as good as in the past. Of course, Van Halen and Eric Clapton are two exceptions. I really think Miller already had his glory days. He may be trying to change his sound for the sake of change. That's understandable. But that won't keep fans from continuing to listen to his previous work, songs like "Jet Airliner," "Jungle Love" and "Take the money and run."

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Acupuncture

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"It works, just try it." Acupuncture is not painful, it is a very clean and simple procedure, Wang said. She said many of her patients are A&M students and professors. In addition to her local patients, she has regular patients that come from as far as Victoria, Texas. Wang offers a \$10 discount to all students every time they visit the clinic. She said she would give the students an even better discount if they went to the clinic to stop smoking.

"I hope that students come here if they want to quit smoking," Wang said. "I will work with each individual patient about financial matters, but their health is so important." Since in business for six years, Wang said many of her patients from the Bryan-College Station and other surrounding areas have reported excellent results. "People who have smoked all their life quit smoking after two or

three visits," Wang said. "Women have lost 10-15 pounds in one month with the help of acupuncture."

The acupuncture clinic does not use any medications or chemicals. The procedure takes approximately 40 minutes.

The patients lie down on a table with anywhere from 10-20 needles inserted into specific points on the body. After 20 minutes, the needles are removed and the patient is given acupressure, a massage where the needles were inserted.

"Acupressure is helpful to those suffering from stress and tension in their daily life," Wang said. The acupuncture center sells herbal remedies from China that are used as a reinforcement measure to help develop and improve the health of the patient.

Wang said that there are no side effects from taking the herbs. Patients that want to lose weight or reduce their blood pressure are encouraged to purchase the special herbal tea, she said.

Wang is a medical doctor in China. She is also a member of the Texas Acupuncture Association.

Wolf Pen Creek

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July 9 and "Hook" on August 6. Both are scheduled to play at dusk.

In addition, a spectacular fireworks show and concert is scheduled on July 3 to celebrate Independence Day, said Walker. She said the day will be filled with fun games and field contests.

"The best place to view the fireworks is from the hill at the amphitheater," said Walker.

Parks and Recreation is encouraging everyone to participate and enjoy the facilities this summer; however, they are prohibiting pets, lawn chairs, radios, cameras, recorders, ice chests, food or beverages and mosquito sprays.

Walker said the main reason for the restrictions is for the safety of everyone. She said this allows the staff to have some control of what is going in and out of the amphitheater grounds.

"We have a vender that provides food and drinks," she said. "Plus, we want to have control over minors drinking."

She said low beach chairs are allowed and are also available for rent.

There are two designated spots available for the physically challenged, said Walker.

"We want to make this thing a positive thing for everyone in the community," said Walker.

In future plans, Walker said Parks and Recreation wants to work with MSC Town Hall.

"We are enthusiastic about trying to work with A&M," said Walker. "We want to get A&M involved with the facility and programming. They are an invaluable resource."

She said they are trying to develop an angle that would portray them not so much as an in-house promoter, but a facilitator.

"We really want promoters to come in and rent the facility," Walker said. "We are very eager to work with a promoter or a club owner."

Around Town

Information is provided by the individual night-clubs and organizations. It is subject to change.

Music:

Texas Music Festival
Rudder Theater. Rudder Box Office, 845-1234.

Monday, June 14 - Sidney Harth, violin with Erick Ralske, french horn; David Tomatz, violoncello and Timothy Hester; piano. Playing Strauss, Hindemith and Mendelssohn.

Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater
1015 Colgate, 764-3486
Thursday - Susana Sharpe and the Samba Police. Samba/Brazilian music. Starts at 8 p.m. to 11. Free admission.

Gill

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bass line and high beat arrangement Gill is heard as a meek mouse waiting to be told when he can sing. The words are repetitive and no feeling of provocation comes from listening to this song, so how it became the title cut is not understandable.

Perhaps Gill became confused as to whom he was supposed to sound like.

With Boyz II Men featured on "I Got You" Gill tries to imitate the style of his guest vocalists, which also included Babyface, Mint Condition, and Karyn White. Gill's album does not represent the musical style of Gill from the past.

His previous album, "Johnny Gill," was capable of concentrating on a sexy mood and making

'Guilty'

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Johnson) is a promiscuous playboy who stands accused of his wife's murder after she takes a fatal plunge from their 18th floor apartment.

Greenhill seeks out talented young trial lawyer Jennifer Haines (Rebecca DeMornay), who accepts the case. However, she soon has reason to doubt his innocence, after Greenhill reveals his sociopathic nature to her. He also begins to show a "special interest" in Haines herself.

Trapped by the rule of lawyer/client confidentiality, Haines is forced to continue work-

you feel his emotions.

In Gill's current release you are so busy trying to understand the words that there isn't time to realize when a mood is present.

Gill should reevaluate his situation if he is attempting to change his style.

Jimmy Jam, who produced an album for Janet Jackson, and LaFace Inc., who produced artists such as Pebbles and TLC, are the top names involved in the production of "Provocative."

However, their infamous style and talent are not evident in the arrangement of Gill's new album. The spunk and attitude of both producers overwhelm Gill's natural style.

If you been waiting a long time for the release of this new album, you will be disappointed.

Gill should spend a few more years ironing out the kinks before releasing another album like this one.

ing on Greenhill's case, even as she discovers more and more of the horrible truth about her new client. Faced with the facts about Greenhill, she must decide if it is worth risking her career and her life to expose him.

Rebecca DeMornay and Don Johnson both give command performances in this flick. Johnson as Greenhill seems to exude evilness, and he has the role of the oily philanderer down pat. DeMornay is very believable as Haines, and the tension between the two of them is electric.

Overall, "Guilty as Sin" is a hell of a ride. If you haven't dosed up on psychodramas lately, you think bungee jumping is getting old, and you're looking for a thrill, this is one way to get it.

na Vidal), swipes his wallet and tries to concoct a story making her look sweet and innocent. Mike is so impressed with the way she plays up her lie, he persuades her to audition for a commercial. He knows her talent is the only chance he has left to save his career.

The only problem is this beautiful brat enjoys playing hard to get. She's mean and independent, and comes from the poor side of town. With Mike being the spoiled child star, these two are total opposites. At first, they

make Felix and Oscar ("Odd Couple") seem like fraternal twins separated at birth.

The friendship they soon develop will keep tugging at your heart until you feel a tear.

The kids auditioning for the agency will make you throw your head back in laughter.

Whether they're ugly, pretty, cute, annoying, talented or untalented, you'll adore them all. The characters really make this movie. Because of them, "Life with Mikey" will create a place in your heart.

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