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Denton band brings four-track-inspired rock/pop to audiences in College Station

HEATHER BRONDY
The Battalion

People not in the mood for any comical rubs this weekend may want to skip watching Comedy Central this Saturday and come to Baghi's for a rock 'n' roll hodge-podge, headlined by the Denton-based band, Centro-matic.

Centro-matic is a four-man team, which stemmed out of lead singer Will Johnson's solo project from his former band, Funland.

Centro-matic teamed up with producer Matt Pence in lead to the creation of *Redo the Stacks*, an album which includes 23 songs primarily composed by Will Johnson himself.

The success of *Redo the Stacks* saw the expansion of the band to include producer Matt Pence on the drums, Scott Dandom on piano and violin, and Mark Hedman on bass. Hedman, a property tax coordinator for First American Bank, said the band's primary goal is to continue to create great music.

"We just want to keep putting out music which makes us happy," Hedman said.

"Which kind of alienates us from major labels, but as long as we get the sound we want, then that's all that really matters."

Centro-matic uses a variety of methods for recording their music. Hedman said he enjoys creating different sounds using alternative recording styles.

"It's just more interesting for us to have a variety of sounds," Hedman said. "Sometimes different kinds of equipment make better-sounding music, and it doesn't matter if you're just using 4-tracks. This gives our music more character."

According to the *Fort Worth Weekly*, Centro-matic's latest album, *The Static vs. The Strings*, gives listeners a chance to experience the "Centro-character."

"Static showcases the band's range, from head-on rockers, each seething with the power pop intensity that can be heard in matics bedroom recorded 4-tracks and releases alike," the *Fort Worth Weekly* said.

Tim Austin, lead singer and guitarist for tastic, said this is one show any hardcore natic should not miss.

"We opened up for them a year ago, thought they were awesome," Austin said. Johnson is really amazing and draws an tenger in."

SEE **CENTRO-MATIC** at Baghi's on Sept. 22.



ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF WILLIAM JOHNSON AND CENTRO-MATIC

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microphone and a 4-track, and since then has burned the Denton music scene with a four-man band and a steady stream of musical proficiency. In these three years, Centro-matic has seen the release of three CDs and one tape.

As a sort of filler between *Redo the Stacks* and the currently in-progress album, *The Static* proves to be original and disorganized, with an array of songs randomly recorded (1996-99) that has everything from shiny tech-dog machinery to vintage 4-tracks.

"Recaptured the Silent Way" illustrates Centro-matic is not just about glitz and glitter. Their talent is very real and undeniable when recording out of the Film Society homes with expensive paying the and microphones.

The studio-recorded Trish Johnson's '95 *Frowns* junior biology Johnson's catchy melody though it "Say something beautiful, something smart/ Say something winning me now/ Win allow men back to your heart."

And once again, Centro-matic has won a place back in the hearts with their smart and beautiful new album, *The Static vs. The Strings Vol. 1*. (Grade A)

—Heather Brondy

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