

Q&A: BALTIMORE'S THANK YOU

Of all the things the words "thank you" bring to mind, music is probably low on the list. However, Baltimore band Thank You, which is signed to Thrill Jockey alongside North Carolina's Future Islands, makes music that will have you thanking the cosmic being of your choice.

The trio released its latest album, *Golden Worry*, in January, and tonight it makes a stop at the *Nightlight with Mutx and Fan Modine*. Drummer Emmanuel Nicolaidis took the time to talk with *Dive* writer Allison Hussey about the band's distinctive sound, influences and what makes a great live performance.

Diversions: How did you guys get your start?

Emmanuel Nicolaidis:

We've all known each other for a really long time. Like, we were friends when we were teenagers. It was just kind of a typical situation where we just met socially through friends and everybody just kind of played one instrument or another.

I think we kind of discovered things that we had in common musically — what kind of music we liked to write — and we just started playing together. This is the third band we've been in together, Michael [Bouyoucas] and I.

We became really good friends with Jeff [McGrath] a few years ago, who was kind of also just involved playing music, and they started Thank You. I've been in the band about three years.

Dive: How would you describe your sound? It's pretty distinctive.

EN: The problem I've always had trying to describe us — I think that's a question any musician struggles with when somebody who is unfamiliar with what they do asks them, "Oh, you're in a band, what kind of music do you play?"

Especially in this day and age with the internet, the music people write is influenced by so many different genres, they have access to pretty much every genre of music in existence right now. You can find whatever you want to hear easily. So it's hard to describe our stuff to somebody because it's influenced by so many different styles of music.

Dive: What kind of music do you listen to?

EN: I listen to a lot of different kinds. I think what I've been listening to a lot recently. Well, it's funny — see, I say the stuff we listen to doesn't sound anything at all like Thank You, but in the past month, I've really, really been into early Sonic Youth and Bruce Springsteen. And Townes Van Zandt.

Dive: Why do you think the music you make is so different from the music you listen to?



COURTESY OF THRILL JOCKEY RECORDS

Thank You is signed to London, England's Thrill Jockey records, which also plays host to former locals and fellow Baltimore act Future Islands.

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Time: 9:30 p.m. today, \$5
Location: Nightlight
 405 1/2 W. Rosemary St.
Info: www.nightlightclub.com

EN: I think one main reason why the music we write doesn't sound unusual is because the three of us — neither of us have had any training. So each of us has spent years on our instrument exploring the instrument on our own, on our own terms and at our own pace and developing. Whether or not you're trying to do so, as a result, so much of your personality shows up because there isn't that second person, or that teacher or whatever that's influencing you.

Now, that's not to say that the music that we listen to has had no influence at all on our playing. It has. I have my favorite drummers that I grew up listening to, and their playing shows up in mine sometimes, but I think Jeff's guitar playing is so incredibly unorthodox to me.

It's so nontraditional that he plays the guitar like somebody who is not a guitarist, who does not look at the instrument like any other guitarist would. I think that's why his playing is so unique, and I think I'd say the same about Michael, too. Their approach is such an outsider's approach that it's bound to sound different than an insider's approach.

Dive: Speaking from an audience perspective, it's so much more interesting to watch somebody play their instrument than just watch someone hit buttons on a synthesizer or a drum machine.

EN: I agree. I grew up going to shows, and that was part of the

enjoyment. Not only hearing the music, but you're watching somebody physically perform something.

But, that said, I don't want to take away or cut down on a lot of music that's being made today that is digital, that is electronic, that is programmed. Because I think that's the genre of today, and I have a lot of friends who perform in that medium.

I think they make really good work. But I'm a drummer. I can't help but love watching people play the drums. It's like watching somebody at the circus do acrobatics or something.

Dive: Watching someone move and interact with their instrument is so interesting.

EN: One thing I love about it is you get — It's complicated, because in some cases you really catch a glimpse into a person's mind and their personality while they're playing.

I think their defenses are down. But in other cases, some people just have it so well-rehearsed, and they're such performers that I think it's the opposite. Their walls are up. It's a performance.

I look for that a lot sometimes. I look for really bad facial expressions, I look for awkwardness and tension. I don't want to see it, I'm not looking for someone to fall on their face, but when somebody's onstage, you're watching a band onstage.

They're putting themselves out there, and you really get to see inside that person. That's not something we really let happen on a regular basis in our society, you know? We don't. Our walls are up, and that's it. Maybe that's neither here nor there.



DTH/ERIN HULL

Thomas Ferguson earns a major decision against Kenneth Radford, bringing the Tar Heels within two points. The extra point Ferguson won with the major decision ended up being the difference in UNC's 19-18 victory.

Petroski delivers kiss of death to the Bulldogs

UNC climbs out of early 12-0 hole

BY CHRIS MOORE
 STAFF WRITER

The North Carolina wrestling team didn't lead for long in its match Wednesday against The Citadel, but they led when it mattered.

Andre Petroski, wrestling up two weight classes in the heavyweight slot, stepped onto the mat for the final bout with the Tar Heels down by just two points and looking to complete a furious comeback.

Seven minutes later, the dual belonged to North Carolina. Petroski fired to a four-point lead on a takedown and a near fall early in the high-intensity match that featured loads of hard shots and contact after the whistle.

"I was trying to break him mentally," Petroski said. "I think that was obvious by him breaking at the end."

From the second period of the match to the end, Petroski controlled the bout, surging to an 11-5 victory that included a penalty point against the Bulldogs' Josh Tuck.

The decision gave UNC the 19-18 win in their final dual of

the regular season and finalized a comeback after the Tar Heels went down 12-0 early.

UNC's Jake Corrill was pinned in the first period of his match, which, paired with a forfeit in the 133-pound bout, put the Tar Heels at an immediate disadvantage.

Three of the next four Tar Heel wrestlers took their decisions, but UNC still needed Thomas Ferguson to build momentum in his match.

He did. Ferguson became the aggressor in his match, dominating Kenneth Radford from the first whistle. The lead carried until the end, where Ferguson picked up the major decision and pulled the Tar Heels within two.

The extra point Ferguson gained by getting the major decision proved to be the difference in UNC's one-point victory.

"It was extremely big because we needed somebody to get us some bonus points," coach C.D. Mock said. "I thought we'd get some of those points in other places, but Fergie came through and it was great."

Petroski said Mock called on his wrestlers in the upper weight-classes to deliver the victory.

"Coach Mock pulled us aside somewhere in the middle — the 174, 184, 197 and heavyweight — and said, 'We're losing to The Citadel right now. We need to step

DTH ONLINE: Thomas Scotton falls to a ranked Bulldog for the second time this season.

it up," Petroski said. "I guess we got the job done. It wasn't pretty, but we improved and it was another step to get better."

Petroski stepped up for an ailing Tar Heel squad from an unlikely position. Ben Brooks, the team's only true heavyweight, hasn't been cleared to wrestle since sustaining a concussion in Saturday's match against Nebraska.

"I had to do something because I was going to have to forfeit the heavyweight," Mock said. "Going in here and giving up 12 points, well you see, we would've lost."

"Andre is a fighter. Andre is a warrior."

Wednesday's dual was the last regular season match for the Tar Heels, who will compete in the ACC Championships during spring break.

While Mock expected his team to win, he knew his team would come out sluggish as a result of training for the postseason.

"I expected them to be flat, and we were flat," Mock said. "But it's a dual meet, it's good to win it."

"It's for the seniors, we wanted to win it."

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@dailytarheel.com.



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