

Singer Gets Warm Response

Rock Trio Is Cheered at Wake Forest

By Jim Shertzer
Staff Reporter

A relatively unknown rock trio and a folk-style singer in search of an audience played last night in Wait Chapel at Wake Forest University.

The performers, here to promote their records and raise money for WFDD-FM, the radio station at Wake Forest, found a small but attentive crowd.

Only about 300 people turned up for the concert, and most of them were not Wake Forest students. But the crowd applauded the singer, Townes Van Zandt, politely and cheered for the rock trio, the Mandrake Memorial.

Van Zandt, wearing a blue denim work shirt and corduroy dungarees, opened the show with a 50-minute set that included a number of his own songs and some traditional pieces.

Accompanying himself on a six-string acoustic guitar, he wandered through several talking blues numbers in the style of Arlo Guthrie's "Alice's Restaurant Massacre." One was a comic piece about the perils of cheap wine, and the second dwelt on the foibles of college fraternity life. The third was a musical caricature of a Ku Klux Klan leader.

All three got a warm response, and Van Zandt's rendition of the traditional blues tune "Cocaine" drew appreciative whistles and applause.

The number that seemed to go over best with the crowd, though, was an old Bo Diddley

song called "Who Do You Love." Van Zandt's voice is not quite deep enough to do the song full justice. But it gave him his best chance to display his guitar-playing ability.

The song, which has all the chord-cracking, hypnotic rhythm of a voodoo ritual, is a showy, difficult piece, but Van Zandt played it well. It made a good conclusion to his set.

Most of Van Zandt's other material, though, was undistinguished. His ballads tend to sound like amateurish revisions of old songs by Gordon Lightfoot and Bob Dylan, and Van Zandt's delivery is so low-key that it's practically nonexistent.

There was nothing low-key about the Mandrake Memorial's half of the show, though. The trio played without any sort of break for nearly an hour, and at the finish had just about everyone in the auditorium wound up tight.

On records, the trio depends on an arsenal of electronic equipment, choirs and orchestras to augment its sound. Last night they had only electric guitar and bass, drums and a vibrator the size of a small suitcase with them, but the sound in the auditorium was nearly as full as their recorded sound.

The trio wove numbers from their records together with long but often exciting

instrumental solos. Craig Anderton on lead guitar and Randy Monaco on bass got into several extremely good instrumental conversations, and Kevin Lally embroidered their work with brawling, explosive drum work.

Judging from the sound they put out last night, the Mandrake Memorial, whose album "Puzzle" is only beginning to bring the trio attention, is going to be extremely popular in the future.

Men's Chorus to Sing

GALAX, Va. — The Mount Airy Men's Chorus of Mount Airy, N.C. will sing at Hillcrest Baptist Church at 7:30 p.m. Sunday.

MADNESS
OPEN TONIGHT 'TIL 11 P.M.

SALES