

BRUM BEAT

THE MUSIC MAG OF THE MIDLANDS

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**POPPIES
FROM EDEN**
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From an entirely personal and totally selfish point of view, it has taken a long while for 1989 to finally spark into action, but March and April see a goodly number of gigs at which my attendance will surely be compulsory.

Acoustic Roots spring back into action (after one of their quietest winters on record) with three visitors from that old colony across the Atlantic First up is Guy Clark, he of the new album 'Old Friends' on the U2 backed label, Mother Records. The recording sessions for this his sixth album, were actually completed during the winter of 1987, following Guy's last full UK tour. The album was released Stateside in early December last year, by Sugar Hill. Guy only fitted in one UK date during 1988, at the 24th Cambridge Folk Festival. Edsel Records reissued his two RCA albums during last autumn. Guy's numerous UK fans will find the songs on this new album are already

"old friends", many having been featured on his last two UK concert tours. If you have patiently waited six years for a new GC album, I can assure you that he has produced a winner. The album liner even features a self portrait which perfectly captures the consummate songwriter who already has one nomination for album cover of the year. Guy appears at the Kingswinford Community Centre on Saturday 11th March.

During the late sixties, Guy was based in Houston, Texas. Among the many local clubs which he used to play was The Old Quarter. That establishment became a focus for numerous other Texas songwriters who later rose to national (well almost) prominence. Townes Van Zandt was one of those. He even recorded a live (double) album there. Townes plays Trysull Village Hall on Tuesday 28th. If you caught Townes at that venue, last time around—27th October 1987—you were privy to

ALL DIRECTIONS



● Pinto Bennett

what can only be described as, "a musical event". At one point during the evening Townes seemed to just drift away. I truly thought he was about to split this mortal coil. The last few years, have seen the appearance of two new TVZ albums, 'At My Window' and 'Live And Obscure' on Heartland Records. His early albums (eight in number), have formed an ongoing reissue series on the Charly/Decal label. If you want to see, hear and experience one of America's greatest living poets, be there on the 28th.

Acoustic Roots have booked bluegrass band, High Country for the Trysull Village Hall on Saturday 8th April. This is the American band's third UK tour, so if you like your licks hot and fast, head west that night.

Staying with our country cousins from "across the pond", the portals of the Breendon also see March visitors by Pinto Bennett and his Famous Motel Cowboys

on 10th & 11th, Michael Johnson on 12th and Kimmie Rhodes on the 25th. At last year's August Bank Holiday "Alternative Country Festival" at the Breendon, of the US visitors, I thought Pinto and the boys were the band "most likely to..." PT Records are releasing Pinto's third album, 'Pure Quill' (PTLP007) to tie in with this visit. A return visit was inevitable anyway, if only to complete the concert video which they began recording at the Breendon last time around. Supporting Pinto will be our own Terry Clarke, making a welcome return.

Since the release last year on Heartland Records, of her second album 'Man In The Moon', Kimmie Rhodes has been working in Sun Studios with legendary producer Jack Clement (and hubby, Joe Gracey) on her next project. That should see a British release during late summer titled 'Angels Get The Blues'. In time for this Spring tour, Heartland

Records are releasing her debut album 'Kimmie Rhodes And The Jackalope Brothers' on their Archive label. Accompanying Kimmie on this visit will be Joe Gracey, Danny Levin (guitar), David Zettner (fiddle) and our own Wes McGhee.

At the Junction on Thursday 23rd, and at the Breendon Bar on Sunday 9th April, is that son of San Antonio, Texas — Santiago Jimenez Jr. His brother, Flaco is already a regular and welcome visitor to these shores. This tour should ensure that Santiago will also be elevated to similar position. I saw Santiago perform at the 1986 Kerrville Folk Festival where he presented yet another facet of the art of conjunto music.

The Irish Centre in Digbeth plays host to the Birmingham debut by the Gregson/Collister Band on Wednesday 29th. To be honest, I found their 1988 album 'Mischief and the 12" single 'I Wouldn't Treat A Dog' disappointing, relative to their earlier collaborations. Their new album, 'A Change In The Weather' is due for release by Special Delivery on 13th March. This is their only local appearance on this full band tour, so make the most of the opportunity. Tim Clarke who runs the Junction Folk Rock and Blues Club, is promoting this gig. There will be no Thursday night Junction gig on 30th March.

The Clent Folk Club meets at the Woodman Hotel, Bromsgrove Road, Clent on Thursdays. On March 16th it's Malcolm Stent. For the other March dates contact Glyn on 021-745 8758. At the other Woodman in Kingswinford, Friday nights read as follows: 10th, Isaac Guillory; 17th, Johnny Coppin; 24th, Closed; 31st, Singers Night; April, 7th Kathryn Tickell; At downtown Cambrian Wharf, the Long Boat Folk Club on Friday's during March, 10th, Singers Night; 17th, Vic Shepherd & John Bowden; 24th, Singers Night; 31st, Derek Gifford; April 7th, Singers Night; In up-town Harborne, Thursdays at the Junction see: 9th, Gordon Giltrap & Ric Sanders; 16th, John B. Spencer. The other Junction dates having been covered earlier. Into April at the Junction, and it's Harvey Andrews on 9th, with Spirit of the West the following week.

That's it. Short but sweet this month. P.S. A big hello to Mick and Fran because... well, because they asked for it and anyone who asks for it, should get it!

ARTHUR WOOD



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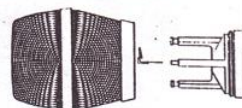
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