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JUNE 1996

The Heaviest Blues Alive

JOHN LEE HOOKER MEETS BUDDY GUY

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INTRO Cranberries



A full-tone wardrobe: Hogan (second from left) dressed for success.

Cranberries guitarist Noel Hogan used his bare-bones live rig—and adopted a more aggressive attitude—to get raw, distorted tones on the Irish band's new release, *To The Faithful Departed* [Island]. The results are much darker, heavier, and denser than anything the 'Berries have squeezed out so far.

"We were writing the new songs on the road, and everyone was saying they sounded bigger and rawer," Hogan says, "so I just used my live setup with no effects. I tried a Turbo Rat a few times, but it compressed everything too much."

Deciding his '73 Telecaster had too much bite, Hogan switched to an '81 Gibson Les Paul. "The Les is better for the heavier, bottom-end tone I was looking for," says Hogan, "but if I wanted lighter tones I could still get them out of the Gibson." For acoustic parts he strummed a Taylor, and singer Dolores O'Riordan provided rhythm guitar textures on a Gibson ES-340.

Besides plugging into a Vox AC30 and a Marshall 30th Anniversary, Noel also tried a Delaney amp on the *Faithful* sessions. "It was great for hitting those bass notes—it would really kick in. With the Vox, we'd just turn it all the way up so it would really growl. When we used the Marshall, it was usually the third channel, and we'd just mess about with the treble a bit."

Hogan also put a limit on stacked rhythm parts. "We only did a few overdubs. But when we did, we used the Vox and put it on the clean channel so there was a bit of clarity. That way, it wasn't just complete noise."

—KEVIN RANSOM



Quite contrary: Ross (left) and Pollock (second from left) veer from Muddy to Metallica.

Seven Mary Three's Hot Numbers

Does low volume breed creativity? Depends whom you ask. After they formed three years ago in the cozy college town of Williamsburg, Virginia, rising stars Seven Mary Three quickly found their electrified jamming options limited. "There aren't too many places where a rock band can practice around here," explains guitarist Jason Pollock, "so we wound up doing a lot of our songwriting on acoustics—Takamines, Martins, whatever was around. It was much easier that way, because we didn't have to worry about finding a place to practice or amps to plug into."

The quartet worked through its unplugged blues to deliver the hard-hitting *American Standard* [Mammoth/Atlantic], which features the raunchy "Cumbersome," a massive radio hit and perfect pendulum-strumming primer, and the cinematic "Favorite Dog," which unfolds like a spaghetti west-

ern before abruptly turning into a ball-busting car chase. "Yeah, that's our favorite too," Pollock grins. "It's an epic song, really diverse—and really long."

Pollock, 23, recently switched from a black '72 Les Paul Custom to a '52 reissue Les Paul gold-top. "I love its old bluesy feel. Plus I just like having that much wood in my hands; it gives me extra confidence. I feel like the gold-top puts out those tones because it's so heavy." Singer and second guitarist Jason Ross strums a reissue Telecaster; live, the J-sonic pair share the channels of both a Vox AC30 and a 100-watt Marshall.

Pollock thinks *Standard* offers unique perspectives. "Every song is crafted to be an entity unto itself. And it's refreshing to hear how the moods change within songs. That's how we listen to the music we like—it could be Metallica one minute and Muddy Waters the next."

—MIKE METTLER

FRET WIRE

acts like **Joan Osborne** and **Iggy Pop** also performed and basked in the humid Southwestern glow. Hot guitar gigs included a ripping double bill with **Teisco Del Rey** and the **Mer-men**, the burnin' **Billy White Trio**, space surfers **Man Or Astro-Man?**, range loungers **Friends Of Dean Martinez**, former MC5 brother **Wayne Kramer**, mighty Tele terror **Bill Kirchen**, **Dan Baird** and the **Yayhoos**, avant-savants **MK Ultra**, blueswoman **Sue Foley**,

GIVEAWAY WINNERS

There really is no such thing as a free lunch. These otherwise lucky readers had to fork over 20 cents to the U.S. Postal Service before they could reel in new gear courtesy *Guitar Player* Giveaways. Nonetheless, congrats to these grand prize winners:

Santana rig

Mark Schiebe, Southboro, Massachusetts

Godin Multiac Guitar, Crate CA125D acoustic amp

Mike Sciarra, Fresno, California

G&L Legacy Special, Hughes & Kettner Attax 80 amp and AC 212 cabinet

Ali Handal, North Hollywood, California

Optek Fretlight Guitar, Dean Markley K-150 amp

Oren E. Lee, Kathleen, Georgia

Martin D16TR Gloss Dreadnought

Danny Thomas, Abilene, Texas

Heavy Sauce