



TERRY SWEET

GREG TAYLOR

FRED CURDTS

RICHARD KOZAK

RANDY HUGHES

## Morning Song To Appear At Highacres

By CHRIS KNOELLER

It is the dream of perhaps every serious musician to make the big time. With all the guitarists from the high school level on up, and with real success tasted by so few, it is very unlikely that a group I see at the "grassroots" level today will become prominent in the future.

Yet Morningsong is midway there. A group that originated in University Park, Pennsylvania, Morningsong has the ambition and perhaps the talent to bring about national fame.

Fred Curdts began his musical career on the drums. For seven years he played with orchestras and bands of the high school variety, graduating to the Penn State rock scene. Becoming tired with the loud music he was playing, Fred turned to the guitar. His strumming supplies the main rhythm for Morningsong. He is proud of his fine collection of acoustic guitars. As he switches guitars back and forth during performances, Randy Hughes likes to kid him, Randy telling Fred he really doesn't need a different guitar for each song. Randy, however, is often seen changing from his bass guitar to a 12-string acoustic. Perhaps the most outgoing of the foursome, Randy is constantly talking and joking between songs.

Terry Sweet takes music very seriously. He was perhaps the first of the members to decide on making music his career. Studying music has enhanced his guitar work even more. He is responsible for the mello electric leads which are so much a part of the Morningsong sound, also performing acoustic leads and rhythm.

Dick Kozak is an amazing guy, and the one I know best. Musically, he is a

dynamic violinist, playing both wild electric violin leads and more quiet melodies. He gets a kick out of doing assorted percussion segments in many songs.

Are Fred, Randy, Terry and Dick successful together? Audience reaction speaks for itself. Adding to the fine music at a Morningsong concert is the interplay between the group and those listening. A personal atmosphere is created as the personalities of the foursome come across.

All four members are fine vocalists on their own, each performing solos. Their harmonies are perhaps their most distinguishing characteristic. They were most influenced by Crosby, Stills, and Nash, but unlike most folk groups do not mimic sounds. Morningsong is distinctive, having a style all its own, with a repertoire of over seventy-five songs by such artists as Neil Young, Steven Stills, Cat Stevens, Seals and Crofts, Graham Nash, James Taylor, and the Grateful Dead. The group has been adding more and more original material to their act.

## 'Morning Song'

by Dominick Pullano

Morning Song is a recording group, a record company, a distributing company, a recording studio, and whatever else it takes to record and sell records.

The band consists of five men playing violin, recorder, acoustic and electric guitars, bass, percussion, moog, banjo, and drums. But what makes this band stand out more than anything else is their vocal harmonies and musical arrangements. First of all, every member of the band writes and sings. Each member contributes what he has to offer in a sensitive harmonic manner. These basic music essentials which each performer adds will be totally appreciated the first time they are heard, and everytime after that. You will never get bored of their sound because of their multiple harmonies, instruments, melodies, and rhythms.

Their style goes back to the days of the Beatles, the Beach Boys, the Everly Brothers, the Byrds, and Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young. Together the personnel in each of these respective bands make their sound an overwhelming and memorable musical experience. However, on their own they leave something to be desired. And this, to our knowledge or not, is the extraordinary harmony which they present. For this reason people like John Lennon, Graham Nash, Paul McCartney, David Crosby, Rodger McGuinn, and Paul Simon will never reach the superior heights which they once enjoyed with their bands. Alone their talents go unchallenged and uncomplemented, and consequently undeveloped.

Predictions for this band's future are impossible. Their sound on their soon to be released album "Listen to a Sunrise" is as mature as any band which I have previously mentioned. To me this band does not seem to be content to remain in one music concept but will expand and explore other styles. Randy Hughes, the bass guitarist, told me that the band already has material for a second album but arrangements and producing is still necessary. This is another important dimension to their music, their unique arrangements. They are gentle music progressions that are logical advancements of the rhythm patterns characterizing the song. Often it is a continuation of the melody, but with an additional harmony such as a voice or a violin floating within to give the effect of a rhythm change.

*Listen to a Sunrise* is an album of all musical tastes from a traditional folksong to a synthesized rocker to a Cat Stevens like ballad. Morning Song is exploring all dimensions of music in their album.

Morning Song will appear at Highacres April 20 from 8 to 11 p.m. Tickets are \$2. Advance sales only.