



Pianist Steve Wynkoop only started formal piano training this summer, but has been playing and performing by ear for several years.

Instantly compatible, they're still together

By JOYCE TOMANA
Daily Collegian Staff Writer
Steve Wynkoop and Andy Mozenter have each secured a foothold as individual musicians, but their combined talents have made them one of the most popular acts in the area.

The two Philadelphia natives met for the first time last year. They were immediately impressed with each others' performances and Mozenter agreed to be the opening act for Wynkoop's HUB Ballroom concert last spring. The show was a hit and the idea of performing together developed.

There was some hesitation on both sides. To combine Wynkoop's piano and Mozenter's guitar would be an unusual blend. Each was accustomed to being the center of attention and was wary of sharing the stage. However, some impressive performances and a friendship emerged from the collaboration.

"Our performing together is a total blend," Wynkoop says. "There is no competitiveness at all. As a musician, Andy has total feel. He's very loose while still being very technical."

"Both of us have a lot of things going, but continuing to play together is always in the back of our minds. I haven't met anybody I play as well with."

"At first I thought there was no compatibility," Mozenter says. "I felt it would be difficult for me to play with anyone who wasn't going to be a backup. I was very impressed with Steve's talent."

"We jammed together for six hours one night. It was much more powerful than playing by ourselves or with anyone else. I knew getting together would be inevitable. Not only does our music work, but our voices are very similar. They work over top of each other."

Their styles encompass a broad spectrum of rock, country, and jazz that has brought them from coffee houses to concerts of their own. Besides their own compositions, they draw material from

Billy Joel, Stevie Wonder, Randy Newman, Jackson Browne, Bruce Springsteen and James Taylor.

Wynkoop performs solo every Wednesday evening at the piano bar of Le Bistro.

Mozenter, a graduate assistant in criminal justice, began playing music at age 10 with an electric guitar and two years of spanish guitar lessons gave him the basics to start his own experimenting. What appeals to him most is what he calls "lastiness."

"It has to be melodic," Mozenter says. "Tasteful is not giving too much pizzazz as a performer. It's cutting down all the excess, getting down to the bare essentials of music. Like Picasso's La Femme. It's only five lines and it's a perfect human body, undeniably complete."

Wynkoop has been at the keyboard for seven and one half years, but never had formal lessons until last June. After at least another year studying on his own, he plans to enter the Berkley Conservatory in Boston.

What Wynkoop and Mozenter are learning most as performers, is what they learn from each other. Wynkoop's strength lies in his technique and intellectual knowledge of music, while Mozenter's strength is his rhythm and emotion.

"Andy has taught me to have more internal standards," Wynkoop says, "To play for myself."

"I don't have Steve's ear," Mozenter says. "He teaches me the essential techniques I need to improve. I learn music from him and I give him emotion."

"I don't know if I can make it," Mozenter says. "I want to do it on my own stuff."

Wynkoop is prepared to make the commitment.

"It's not my chosen choice as much as it is my only choice," he says. "It's the only choice I feel comfortable with."



Andy Mozenter has become popular with campus coffeehouse crowds and has incorporated some of his own compositions into the act.

Twelfth tour for Virtuosi

The Italian chamber music ensemble Virtuosi di Roma will give a concert Friday as part of the Artists Series.

The program will include Vivaldi's Concerto for Four Violins, Strings and Harpsichord, Op. 3, as well as other concerti by Vivaldi, Corelli and Paisiello.

The ensemble, under the direction of its founder Renato Fasano, is making its 12th tour of the United States. The group has also performed throughout Europe, Japan and the Soviet Union.

Using six violins, two cellos, a con-

trabass, an oboe and a harpsichord, the ensemble is noted for its homogeneity and for the ability of its members to perform as soloists.

Though best known for their performances of Italian baroque music, especially that of Vivaldi, the Virtuosi have given attention to unknown or neglected works of all nationalities.

Tickets for Friday evening's concert — to be held at 8:30 p.m. in Eisenhower Auditorium — will be on sale Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Artists Series HUB booth.

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