

The rock scene

Exposure for Dianne and Co.

by SUSAN JANZ

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Dianne Heatherington and Merry Go Round is a local group which will receive national exposure through a television series this summer.

The videotaping of the live segments for the first six shows held June 3 and 4 attracted a full studio audience. It's interesting to note that all the audio except lead vocals was pre-recorded at Century 21. The programs will be aired on CBC starting July 5.

Chilliwack, a group from Vancouver who appeared here last summer, was at the taping. The group now consists of three members who achieved an amazingly-full sound with two guitars and drums.

Merry Go Round acquired a new drummer, Vance Masters, about three weeks ago. Vance is known to most Winnipeggers since he has been with several local bands. The last group he performed with was Brother.

Dianne said in an interview she was pleased with the tapings, although she hadn't yet seen the results. "Thursday night I was nervous at first, but I loosened up toward the end. By Friday, I felt like I was doing a regular concert."

She explained there will be 11 shows, or 13 altogether if there are no pre-emptions. The group is hoping to put out a promotion record to be played by stations across Canada at the time the series will be shown. "Then we hope to set up a tour across Canada," she said.

"We also hope - like any other group - to record an album." One may be released next spring.

Other Winnipeg groups may be used for future tapings. Upcoming guest artists also may include folksinger Bruce Cockburn, who was well-received here when he appeared in concert May 14.

Asked about the Winnipeg rock scene, Dianne replied: "There's just no work around town right now. One-nighters are practically non-existent and it seems groups have to either go into the pubs or play small town." She suggested perhaps audiences are "saturated with local groups" and want to hear big-name bands.

Merry Go round, with Dianne, Vance, Hermann Fruehm, piano, Rob Langdon, lead guitar, and Melvyn Ksionzek, bass will play tomorrow at the Lake Riviera rock Festival.

Last summer, criticism was made by some youths that too many rock festivals were held and the concept was ruined by over-exposure.

Dianne agreed and commented, "If there are one or two good festivals, they'll be successful. If there are more than that, they'll probably flop."

Merry Go Round appears to be one of the very few local groups working steadily. Dianne explained that they seem to be able to get pub dates any time. When asked why the group was successful, she replied that perhaps people like a female vocalist.

"My biggest asset is that I'm a girl. There aren't that many women in rock bands'