

Lemaj creates its very own style of appealing music

by Liz Blum
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Beginning its performance with an upbeat instrumental of The Dregs's "Country House Shuffle," Lemaj soars off on an evening's trip to the stars, drawing the audience right along with it. The pure enjoyment the group gains from creating good music naturally transcends itself to those around it. During a performance as well as in practice, the members concentrate totally on the quality of their sound.

"Once was waiting for the force that frees,
Like the forms within chrysalides
Primed to soar
Patiently
Anticipating fusion with the gentle breeze..."
"Chysalis" — Richard Craddock

Like the image of the butterfly used in the words of an original love song performed by the band, Lemaj is poised for flight to success. The group shows its audience what music is all about. Rather than loud, screaming guitars and funky special effects, its music contains a quality not often heard in clubs.

Cooper Canady, bassist and vocalist, is the primary writer of the two songs released on Lemaj's first single. "Rosie" and "A Special Kind of Woman" have been released on BME records and the single is available at Schoolkids' Records. Canady

demonstrates his excellent vocal ability most during '88 Special's "Hold On Loosely." He has an unusual talent for style and lyrics and uses this gift to its fullest extent.

Bob Stuart, drummer, keeps the pace of the band's performances high with his talented ability on the drums. He gets the members of the audience involved with the band, talking to them between songs and encouraging responses.

Ronnie Tew, guitarist and vocalist, exhibits considerable talent with his instrument as well as on lead and back-up vocals. His vocal lead on Thin Lizzy's "The Boys Are Back in Town" shows a solid grasp on vocal manipulation. An experienced showman, Tew gives his performance "the professional touch."

Craddock contributes his multi-talents as keyboardist, vocalist and lyricist to Lemaj. He adds dimension to the performance with his capable handling of the keys as well as his voice. Craddock's keyboard solo on a Lemaj original "Mayday Parade," is impressive.

Lemaj is a Raleigh-based band. Its name is taken from the French *l'images*, translated as "the images." The bastardized translation is "wise old man", the band's logo. Lemaj is described as a "new band performing a unique fusion of rock, jazz and original music." The group cannot be classified in one particular category. This widens its appeal to its audience by including a little bit of each type of music in its shows. Drawing on the abilities and unusual gifts of each of the members, Lemaj comes together as a total musical experience guaranteed to include you on its "trip to the stars."

Lemaj's single is currently being played on WKNC FM 88 during prime time and by request. The band is aiming itself at college audiences who are ready for a



Lemaj, a Raleigh-based band, performs a unique combination of rock and jazz. This different sound cannot fit into any one single category, and appeals to a variety of tastes.

new face rather than some of the hardened bands of the past. Lemaj is trying to get away from the nightclub scene that may burn a band out before its time. At the present the band is in a "lull" right now before beginning tours again. With several major record labels negotiating for contracts and getting ready to incorporate into a business, the group is taking a breath between one step and the next. But by no means are they remaining idle. Plans are in the works for a release of an all original album by early

spring and a few one night appearances in the Raleigh area before they begin a major tour. The next performance is planned for the Switch within the next month or month and a half.

From the boks of their future plans, Lemaj is about to make a rock n' roll dream come true. They have the dedication, talent and chutzpah that it takes to make it in the crazy world of entertainment. And with the dash of luck they seem to have, the sky is only the next step with the stars not far ahead.