

Grooving it up on Hemingway Corner

BY GAZETTE STAFF

Hemingway Corner performed at the Opening Ceremonies of Frosh Week. They're kicking off a cross-country tour to introduce their second album "Under the Big Sky". They are David Martin, Scott Dibble, and Mark Sterling. Lead singer and founding member David Martin talked to the Gazette in late August and here's what he had to say:

Gaz: Just to get this out of the way, where is everybody from?

DM: I'm from LA. I've been there for about five years. Scott Dibble is from Toronto and Mark Sterling lives in Edmonton, but they're actually moving to Halifax in a few weeks or so to spend six months to a year there.

Gaz: Why?

DM: Well, our manager Bob Osmond lives there, in the country. He's got a house by himself and he thinks it's haunted, so he gets after people to live with him.

Anyway, Scott and Mark are going to crash with him for awhile.

Gaz: Scary. I have to ask. Where did the name come from?

DM: (Laughs). After song-writing sessions, we [Editor's note: Hemingway Corner originally consisted of David and Johnny Douglas. Douglas left the band after the first album.] used to go get something to eat or drink. We went to the same place several times and we always got seated in the same back corner table. Someone started calling it "Hemingway Corner", you know, like in Paris when Ernest and Gertrude Stein and all the writers used to hang out. Also, we had a record deal before we had a real name, so Hemingway Corner just stuck.

I've got to be honest, though. We get asked that question a lot and we used to take turns at making up different answers.

Gaz: So is this really how it

happened or just another story? **DM:** That's for you to figure out.

Gaz: This is the most-asked question of Frosh Week — how was your summer?

DM: We've done a fair amount of touring; festivals mostly. Actually, it has been really cool. We got to play with the Everley Brothers and, I mean, they influenced the Beatles. I found that pretty cool.

We're just starting now to tour in earnest to support our new album, which is about one month old.

Gaz: Tell us about life on the road, Hemingway Corner-style.

DM: We enjoy it. I was a songwriter before I was anything else. I find it cool just to be on stage and to perform for an audience and have them respond to something I wrote.

Of course, it's exhausting. There's nothing romantic about being on the road. We just eat donuts and drink coffee. However, it's one of the few times that we can just play our music and we really enjoy that aspect of the road.

Gaz: Who are you listening to right now?

DM: I like "Throwing Copper" by Live; Soundgarden; I'm big into Pearl Jam. I've got Neil Young's latest — it rocks. I'm a big fan, I buy records all the time.

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Gaz: Musically speaking, where are you coming from?

DM: As a kid growing up in Atlanta, I listened to the radio a lot. Like, all the time. I got exposed to a lot of southern rock like Lynrd Skynrd and the Allman Brothers. I'd even consider REM and the Black Crows as influences. Also, I heard a great deal of soul music, and that has stuck with me.

Gaz: As a group, was there any pressure to produce an especially strong album to follow up your successful debut?

DM: Yeah. But you know, a lot of that pressure was from ourselves. We want to shoot as high as we can. We want to make classic music. Also, we want to have fun. Music is something to enjoy. Our new album is our best to date; but hopefully our next album will be even better.

Gaz: Is there an overriding

message in your music or does each song speak for itself?

DM: Individually, our songs say their own thing. Overall, if we have a theme, it would be about gettin' through stuff. You know, things can get nuts, you just have to work through crazy times. Whereas a lot of today's music is about the dark side of things, I think our music throws out a thread of hope.

Gaz: Where do you like playing? Who do you get a lot of response from?

DM: Out east more than anywhere else. I don't know why. We play out there a lot, we like it a lot; it's so pretty — and for me, it's a completely different lifestyle than what I see in LA.

We play for lots of colleges but we get mail from people of all ages.

Gaz: Are packed stadiums and huge concerts in your future? Do you want that or do you have other goals?

DM: We hope our music gets out there, you know, finds its audience. I think more and more people can enjoy what we do. I remember going to a U2 concert a while back and Bono was giving a monologue about how they never saw themselves getting so big and I was thinking, 'What are you talking about, you're U2!'. We just want to reach as many people as we can.

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