

Andre Gagnon 'golden mean'

by Steve Trussoni

Andre Gagnon and his 10 piece band were in town for the first time, and played to a one night sold-out performance.

Gagnon might best be described as the "golden mean" between classical and rock idioms.

He played thematic elements from Beethoven's 1st Piano Concerto a la Gagnon, a Chopinesque Nocturne, and his own **Concerto** two movements, combining the styles of flamenco guitar with Rachmaninov.

Conducting from the piano, which he has been playing since the age of 4, Andre was surrounded but never outplayed by his group, an amplified string quartet and flute, adding depth to an already interesting percussion section, complete with congos

and kettledrums.

His new release, "Smash", found him skipping and dancing into the second set.

Orchestral rock tunes, for which he is also famous, revealed the Montreal-born musician to be a true "disco" impresario.

Andre would then play with no trace of the sentimental or pathetic; just machine-like melodies, or so I found when called upon to play a piano duet version of **Le Piano au Soleil**, using a puppet-twin to play the second part.

With roots in the Classical Piano repertoire, his encore of the Etude in A Flat Major, Opusio, Number 3 was appropriate, though not a great one by any means.

A return of "Smash" indicates a split between his real self and the mediocrity of disco.



Chamber music series

A new chamber music series has been introduced this season for the Dalhousie Arts Centre. A broad spectrum of music is planned—the well known Dalart Trio, the New York Chamber Soloists, the Canadian Brass, the Bartok Quartet and Il Divertimento.

The Dalart Trio will open the series on October 6 and will perform again in January and April. The Trio, all members of the Dal Music Dept., plan a European tour this fall. The Canadian Brass are slated for

March with a Performance of "Hornsmoke", a comic opera by P.D.Q. Bach. This should be a highlight of the series.

Students should note that they can attend each of the seven performances for the low price of three dollars. Regular subscription series prices are \$26 and \$21 with a saving for senior citizens at \$15. All performances are scheduled for Fridays at 8:30 p.m. in the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium.

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