

The Observer

Weekly

Cloverleaf Inside and Out

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Progressive Year of 2011

By *Russell Flanagan*

Progressive music fans are hard to come by in high school, but for those few of you that are prog fans, or those of you that may be interested in challenging your musical tastes, 2011 is proving to be a promising year in progressive music.

There are many household prog bands that have already released albums. Yes, King Crimson, Beardfish, Neal Morse, Unexpect, Devin Townsend, Symphony X, Scale the Summit, Al Di Meola, Between the Buried and Me, and numerous others have already released albums in 2011.

As if that wasn't enough, there are still some fan favorites yet to release their new album. RUSH, Dream Theater, Opeth, and Mastodon are a few bands among the many that plan on shipping out their album late 2011.

RUSH is believed to release *Clockwork Angels*. RUSH has teased their fans with early single releases and talks of an epic; RUSH hasn't written an epic since 1978.

Drummer Neil Peart said in an interview, "I intend it to be my highest achievement lyrically and drumming wise."

If these bold words are true, *Clockwork Angels* should be anything but a disappointment.

Dream Theater is releasing *A Dramatic Turn of Events*, in September of 2011. It will be their first album without founding member and drummer Mike Portnoy. Dream Theater has also put out a single and snippets of other songs from the new album, and it has many fans excited for a promising result.



RUSH, in concert in 2004 on their 30th Anniversary Tour, may release an album later this year.
Photo Courtesy of Wikipedia Commons

Cloverleaf student Mitchell Scott had his own thoughts on the new Dream Theater album.

"I really like Dream Theater's new single, and from what I've heard in the snippets, I think it'll be a pretty solid album."

Clay Vondriska shared his excitement for the new RUSH album.

"It's freakin' RUSH! They don't know what a bad album is."

Opeth is also planning on putting out their new album *Heritage* in September of 2011. Opeth is known for their extremely diverse musical styling. They are known to go from delicate acoustic parts with almost ambient intentions to death metal sections all in one song.

Opeth's vocalist and rhythm gui-

tarist Mikael Åkerfeldt has announced that there will be no death growls on *Heritage*. From the single, it sounds as though they are taking a more traditional prog approach, but with Opeth, nothing can be concluded on one song.

Not everyone is excited about the abundance of new progressive music for 2011, and one of those people is Jackson Keller.

"I don't really listen to progressive music, but it's better than Kesha or Lady Gaga and all that trash people listen to these days."

Whether you're already a listener, or you haven't heard of any of these bands, check out what prog fans are buzzing about and expand your musical knowledge.

Points Fest Hits the Stage this Weekend

By Rebecca Simpson

On Sept. 17, 2011, Cedar Point will be hosting this year's *Point Fest* bands, Christian rock Toby Mac and Skillet. If you are looking for a day of roller costars and great music then point fest is the place for you!

The bands they are featuring have been great hits in the Christian music industry for the past few years.

"I love Skillet! They are the best band ever," exclaimed sophomore Abbey Phillips.

Skillet's most recent album *Awake*, released in 2009, has become very popular along with their album *Comatose*, released in 2006. They feature their catchy songs such as "Rebirthing," "Last Night," "Monster," and "Hero." Skillet has taken the hearts of many people who have listened to their music.

The other artist, Toby Mac will be featured at *Point Fest* as well. Their

most recent album *Tonight* has many great songs such as "City on our Knees," "Get Back Up," and "Hey Devil." These songs have been heard and loved all over the radio and now is the time to experience the beat of the music live in concert.

Students at Cloverleaf High are very excited for this year's *Point Fest* and are hoping they will be able to make the trip.

"I really want to go! I'm hoping a group from Impact will be wanting to go as well and we can all go up together," says junior Tessa Plazek.

While other students are planning the trip, another is in regret that he cannot go.

"I'm very upset that I am not going; the line up is great!" says sophomore Adam Goodreau.

A youth group at Wadsworth Nazarene Church is planning on attending this event as well.

"Me and my friend David here are looking forward to *Point Fest* to ride many costers and listen to the best bands ever," says sophomore Braden Willis.

The excitement about *Point Fest* is in this case very overwhelming to some Cloverleaf students.

"I'm pumped," sophomore says David Daniels.

Another Cloverleaf student shares his excitement.

"I'm mostly excited to see Skillet and spend my day a Cedar Point," says senior Alex Williams.

It has been very evident that *Point Fest* is going to be the event of the year for many of the Cloverleaf students. The idea of going to Cedar Point is exciting enough, but to have the opportunity to walk across the park and see a live Skillet and Toby Mac concert makes the planning and ride out there very well worth it.

Upcoming Concerts Offer Exciting Times for Fans

By Emily Smith

Concerts are one way that people find entertainment in the fall. With several concerts coming to Northeast Ohio in the coming months, it will be easy for almost anyone to find something they like. While the prime concert season is in the summer, there are plenty of open options for any music lover of any genre.

Recently on Sept. 8, 2011, Elton John came to the Blossom Music Center in Cuyahoga Falls. John is currently on an international tour.

Another recent concert included Blink-182. They are touring with My Chemical Romance on the Honda Civic tour. The bands also played at the Blossom Music Center on Sept. 13, 2011.

For all you country music fans, on

Sept. 17, 2011, Jason Aldean will be performing at the Blossom Music Center. He is going to be performing with Chris Young. The concert starts at 7:30.

One popular artist coming to Cleveland this fall is the rapper Mac Miller. He will be performing at the House of Blues on Oct. 10, 2011.

"I'm going to see the amazing and attractive Mac Miller in concert," exclaimed senior Ashley Miller.

Coming soon to the Cleveland State University campus are two popular artists. Chris Brown will be performing at the CSU Convocation Center on Sept. 21, 2011. Selena Gomez and the Scene will be performing at the CSU Wolstein Center on Oct. 23, 2011.

Two more artists will be perform-

ing at The House of Blues. The Plain White T's will be performing on Oct. 17. Gym Class Heroes will be performing on Nov. 1, while Never Shout Never will be performing on Nov. 2.

Many concerts of all different music preferences will be coming to Northeast Ohio in the next few months. While they are a good source of entertainment, some students like senior Kristen Reed have concerns about the cost.

"I would like to go to a concert, but they are too expensive," stated Reed.

There can be affordable ways to go to concerts by just even choosing seats further from the stage. The music can still be enjoyed, so get out and enjoy some concerts!

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Quiz & Quotes

What is your favorite catch phrase?



Ben Kuharik (11):
“Pain is just weakness leaving the body.”



Madison Cerny (12):
“You can’t be a gold digger forever.”



Kayla Hammond (12):
“Cool story bro!”



Mr. Francis Lantz:
“I am the Yeti.”

Big Night for Country Music

By Tricia Rice

This fall, the 45th annual Country Music Association (CMA) Awards will hit the stage at Bridgestone Arena in Nashville on Nov. 9 at 8 p.m.

For the sixth year, five of the twelve categories were announced live on ABC News, *Good Morning America*, by Jake Owen and The Band Perry.

The other seven categories were announced by Jerrod Niemann and Thompson Square from the historic Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, the home of the first CMA Awards broadcast in 1968.

This year, Taylor Swift will battle the boys with a total of five nominations. Up against her, who also have five nominations, are Brad Paisley, Blake Shelton and Jason Aldean.

When the nominees were announced, many of the country stars were quick to respond.

“Thanks to you guys and the CMA voters; we got 5 CMA NOMINATIONS THIS MORNING,” tweeted Swift. “I am flipping out!!!”

Swift wasn’t the only artist who was quick to thank her fans; Shelton also made sure to mention his own fans.

“WOW! Five CMA nominations...now I know what it’s like to be Miranda Lambert,” he joked. “Thank you, guys!”

With the variety of great albums released this year, ranging from a risky, new type of “country rap” to an emotional, self-written album, the decision for Album of The Year might be a tough one.

Artists with albums nominated into the category are Swift, Paisley,

Shelton, Aldean and the Zac Brown Band.

In the category for Song of The Year, Kenny Chesney, Aldean, The Band Perry, The Zac Brown Band and Swift are the nominees.

However, in this particular category, the award actually goes to the song writer, not the actual artist.

In Swift’s case, this will be her first nomination as a song writer for her very own song.

Swift will also have an opportunity to receive an additional trophy as the producer of her most recent album, *Speak Now*.

Even though there are many more categories to recognize, the main one everyone is focused on is Entertainer of The Year, which is one of the biggest awards an artist can receive in country music.

In the running for the big award this year are Keith Urban, Paisley, Shelton, Aldean...and showing some girl power amongst the group of mainly men this year is Swift.

Both Paisley and Swift are returning Entertainer of The Year winners and they’ve both had huge years, however that doesn’t mean they’re the only two who have a shot at the award. Urban, Shelton and Aldean all have been on tour this summer and recently released successful albums.

Radio stations have already hinted who they think is favored to win it this year, but in all truth ... the award could go to any one of the five talented artists.

If you’re bound and determined to have your favorite singer win in any of the categories they’re nominated in this year, then you can submit your vote at cma.com.

It's Grizzly Season and the Colts are Ready

By Rebecca Simpson

Tonight, the Cloverleaf Colts will take on the Wadsworth Grizzlies on the road, and the Colts are pumped and ready to go.

The Colt-Grizzly rivalry has been going on for many years now and still has not seemed to die down. Each year, the game between the two teams is extremely heated and the strive to win becomes even greater than before.

The only question is, who will win? Will it be the Grizzlies, like it has been the past few years in a row, or will the Colts pull off a victory for the 2011 football season?

"I think the team with the highest ability and with the least penalties will win," says teacher Melissa Evert.

"No comment," says senior Clair Turner.

"I believe if the Colts try their hardest and really believe in themselves, then they will pull off a win," says sophomore Kaylee Gutschow.

The football players have been practicing hard for this week specifically to beat the Grizzlies.

"Our offensive has been bustin' our butts all week and I'm very confident that they will be able to crush the Wadsworth D-line," says senior Derek Daubenmire.

"We know Wadsworth has some very talented players on their team; this gave us the motivation to work extra hard at practice," says senior Joe Romanoff.

To complete the rivalry, the fans need to be very active in this upcoming game with many cheers to support their team.

"Everyone who comes to the game on Friday better be ready to cheer as loud as they can," says senior Kelani Nuckols.

"I'm hoping the student section will be up and wild the whole game, no matter what the outcome," says senior Taylor Detwiler.

The stadium will be jam packed with CHS fans tonight. Come out and support the team by wearing all your camo gear, in honor of the National Guard they are celebrating, and cheer the team to victory.

See *Captain America* Before Time Runs Out?

By Jackson Keller

Superhero movies grow more popular every day and Marvel Studios wants to cash in on the trend with their upcoming *Avengers* movie, which will see superheroes like Iron Man, Thor, and The Hulk team up on the big screen. But before they finished *The Avengers*, Marvel introduced their last major hero to moviegoers in *Captain America*.

Captain America: The First Avenger serves as a prequel to movies like *Thor* and *Iron Man*, taking place during World War II and explaining the origins of the titular hero. It features Chris Evans as Captain America, Hugo Weaving as the Red Skull, and Dominic Cooper as Howard Stark.

The story concerns Steve Rogers, a good-natured, but frail, young man who wants to enlist in the United States army. Unfortunately, he is constantly rejected due to his poor health. However, Rogers gets his chance when he is part of a secret government project that injects him with a super soldier serum. The serum gives him boosted strength and enhances his senses. After going on a rescue mission to save a group of POW's he becomes Captain America.

I have a feeling audiences would

appreciate *Captain America* much more if there weren't so many other superhero movies being released. As it stands, *Captain America* is a well put together film that simply can't compare to other superhero movies like *The Dark Knight* and *Iron Man*.

Captain America's story is fine, but predictable. There aren't too many twists and turns in it but it is serviceable. However, it doesn't have the complex thematic meaning that other superhero movies do, such as *Iron Man's* discussion of the impact of arms dealers on American militarism or *The Dark Knight's* comments on terrorism in a post-9/11 society.

The actors all give decent performances, but there aren't any ones that particularly stand out. As a character, Captain America is likable enough and easy to root for, but simply isn't as charming or complex as other superheroes, making him less interesting as a result.

Captain America doesn't have the wit and charm of Robert Downey Jr.'s Iron Man. *Batman Begins* spent an entire movie exploring the development and psychology of the title character, and for good or ill, Christian Bale's performance as Batman stuck with you. In terms of character devel-

opment, Steve Rogers doesn't have a lot going on. He starts the movie as an awkward guy who tries to do the right thing to a superhero who tries to do the right thing. There aren't any profound changes in Rogers; nothing really changes about him besides his build.

On the positive side, the action is well executed and World War II is always a good setting. The first half of the film functions surprisingly well as a period piece, getting the look and feel of the World War II era down to a tee. It's also interesting to see how the history of the real world fits in the Marvel universe, successfully combining World War II, the Norse mythology of *Thor*, and the science fiction of *Iron Man*.

If nothing else, *Captain America* is a well made film, combining a competent cast with a competent script and a really well done setting. The film probably won't stick with you the way *The Dark Knight* did, but it's decent enough and worth seeing if you have nothing to do on a boring afternoon.

Captain America: The First Avenger is at the tail end of its theatrical run, so if you plan on seeing it in theaters, you may want to do that soon.