

# Hobex acts as Dillon Fence's vacation

JOHN LYONS Staff Writer

A very young band featuring two former members of Dillon Fence will be playing at the Elbow Room tonight.

The band, which is called Hobex, is fronted by Dillon Fence's former singer and guitarist, Greg Humphreys, and former bassist, Andy Ware. Drummer Rob Ladd, who played with the Southern ska band the Pressure Boys, completes the trio.

Hobex formed last fall when Humphreys and other band members took time off from Dillon Fence.

"Honestly, I was just feeling a little rocked out," Humphreys said. "I just needed to try something different."

The trio recorded a demo last fall and then played a test show in December.

They are currently on a test tour of North Carolina and South Carolina and will play cities like Charleston, Charlotte, Raleigh and Greensboro.

Hobex is a more groove-oriented band

than Humphreys' past efforts.

He said the band has more funk and soul influences than the power pop of Dillon Fence.

"I love rock," he said, "But musically there is just so much rock out there it's blinding. This is just a great change of pace for me."

Ladd has also had a strong impact on the band's sound.

He played ska, soul and funk with the Pressure Boys and has worked as a professional drummer in Los Angeles for about eight years.

Humphreys said, "He's the sort of drummer that gets you moving."

When asked if he is enjoying the tour, he said, "Oh, I love it."

"Hopefully, we'll be able to make an album and tour on it," he said. "The future is pretty unclear, but I do enjoy it."

The formation of Hobex and of Toast, another new band fronted by former members of Dillon Fence, may be a sign

of that band's permanent demise.

Humphreys said the band left things open for getting back together but that musically he's more interested in Hobex right now.

He said, "I think we're (Dillon Fence) all proud of what we did. I can't say I'm totally positive about everything, but I'm just trying to focus on the good things."

He said, "I put the music first, and this is musically what I want to do."

Humphreys said he realizes the new band will have to start over to a certain extent but hopes Dillon Fence fans will be a source of support.

Humphreys played with Dillon Fence for nine years.

The band was a part of the thriving Chapel Hill music scene and played with a wide variety of bands, including the Black Crowes, Pavement and Hootie and the Blowfish.

In regard to the Chapel Hill music scene, Humphreys said, "I'm not trying to sound cocky, but I'd like to think we

(Dillon Fence) were a part of making that. It's something everybody built together."

Humphreys said there is some continuity between the music of Dillon Fence and Hobex but that the groove-oriented emphasis is something he's wanted to focus on for a long time.

"I'm proud of what we (Dillon Fence) did," he said, "But at this stage of my musical life, I just need to do something different."

Hobex's live sets have featured guest musicians, and tonight percussionist Gary Greene will join the band for the show at the Elbow Room.

Humphreys said he's not sure what will happen after the test tour is finished, but he said he'll be performing some acoustic sets this spring.

Regarding the future of Hobex, he said, "We'll just have to wait and see."

Humphreys and the rest of the band are scheduled to play an acoustic set on WUSC-FM 90.5 at 8 p.m. today.



Photo special to The Gamecock

Dr. Donald Protnoy, left, Dr. Charles Fugo and Dr. Robert Jesselson are the American Arts Trio.

## Trio to perform tonight

SHERRIE BAKSHI Staff Writer

The American Arts Trio will perform 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the School of Music's recital hall.

Trio member Charles Fugo is a pianist, director of the piano division at the School of Music and staff member at the Governor's School for the Arts.

Robert Jesselson is a cellist and director of the university's string project.

Donald Protnoy is a violinist, conductor of the university's symphony and chamber orchestras, and managing director of the Conductors Institute of South Carolina.

They have been performing together for 10 years.

The trio plans to perform three selections, beginning with "Trio Opus 1, Number 1," Beethoven's first published

work.

"[It's] a piece that is very much out of the classical tradition," Jesselson said.

The second selection will be "Three Nocturnes" by Ernest Bloch, an impressionistic piece published in 1925.

"It's a more contemporary piece," Jesselson said.

The final selection is "Trio in D Minor," which is similar to Tchaikovsky's works.

The trio likes to perform for an audience.

"We get a tremendous amount of satisfaction performing in public," Jesselson said. "For me, it's the satisfaction of watching the audience respond."

Admission is free. For more information about the concert, call the School of Music at 777-4280.



Photo special to The Gamecock

USC is staging Shakespeare's bawdy comedy, "The Merry Wives of Windsor" through Feb. 25 at Drayton Hall Theatre. Pictured from left are Monica Wyche, Nate Whitworth, Chris McCormick and Lynn Kramer. Curtain times are 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday. Tickets cost \$10 for the public, \$8 for seniors, military, USC faculty and staff, and \$6 for students. For more information, call the box office at 777-2551.



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