

Release offers rainy day sound

SOUND ADVICE

MARCUS AMAKER Staff Writer
BLEED YOUR CEDAR Elysian Fields
 ★★★★★ (out of four stars)

Elysian Fields makes the kind of music a Mazzy Star fan would be proud of: moody psychedelic rock.

And, like Mazzy Star, Elysian Fields' lead singer is a sultry female who favors mood over volume. But instead of sounding like a fine-tuned cover band, Elysian Fields' full length debut "Bleed Your Cedar" is beautiful record that is unworthy of simple comparisons.

Having only been together since January of 1995, Elysian Fields was fortunate to quickly sign a record deal with Radioactive Records. Backed by a growing fan base in California and New York, the band released a four song EP later that year and began recording "Bleed Your Cedar" in April of 1996. The 11 songs on the CD were produced by band members Oren Bloedow and Ed Pastorini. The centerpiece of this five-member

Jennifer Charles is a hopeless romantic who sees love as a form of salvation. From the sound of "Bleed Your Cedar," that salvation won't be coming soon.

band is Jennifer Charles, who effortlessly sings each song with a soft, silent whisper. The dark atmospheres are only enhanced by her haunting interpretations of yearning ("Anything You Like"), obsession ("Off Of Out"), dissatisfaction ("Lady In The Lake") and possession ("Jack In The Box").

She uses her experiences as an actress to squeeze every bit of emotion out of a song. The lost soul heard on a song like

"Mermaid," who has "never left the water," reemerges throughout the themes on the record.

Charles sounds as if she recorded her delicate vocals locked up in a room with the lights out. James Genus' bass and Ed Pastorini's piano are so soft, the slightest wind

would blow them away. The melodic strumming of guitarist Oren Bloedow and the jazz-tinged drumming of Ben Perowsky round out what is a nearly

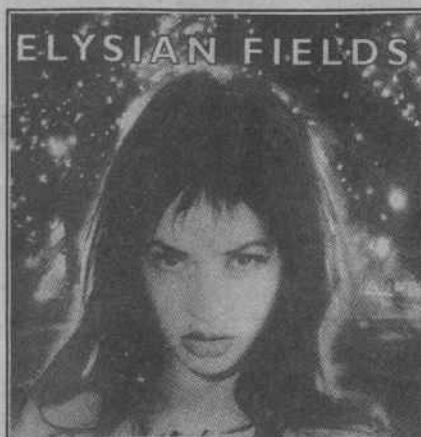
flawless CD.

Jennifer Charles is a hopeless romantic who sees love as a form of salvation. From the sound of "Bleed Your Cedar," that salvation won't be coming soon. She wallows in self-pity often by professing that she's "on the wrong side of the water" on the album's opener "Lady In the Lake." On the seven-minute "Fountains On Fire," she confesses she's "torched the final curtain" and "changed my destiny."

Musically, the bulk of the album relies heavily on a slow developing bass line or guitar riff. A melody is repeated so often it becomes part of the listener's subconscious. Instead of falling into the trap of using the same instruments, they use creepy organs and piano solos to give each song a fuller, more enriched sound.

The band is just as effective when they turn up the volume on their guitars on the furious "Gracie Lyons" and catchy "Sugarplum Arches." The latter song's stop and start motion shows the band's versatility and prevents the album from sounding monotonous.

"Bleed Your Cedar" is a seductively beautiful record from a band that is destined for further success. A rainy day's perfect companion is the music of Elysian Fields.



Mista produces a smash debut

SOUND ADVICE

ROBERT M. KNIGHT Staff Writer
MISTA Mista
 ★★★★★ (out of four stars)

It has been a long time since a new R & B group has hit the music scene with a sound and lyrics as original as the newest group, Mista, to hit the airwaves out of Atlanta.

Mista, produced by Organized Noize, puts Atlanta on the map once again as being the new home of R&B. The four-member group has the vocals to back up the tracks with lots of flavor that reminds you of Boyz II Men and The Jackson 5. There are no sappy lyrics in any of the tracks, and there are no tracks that just serve as fillers.

The first single off the CD "Blackberry Molasses" is already a smash hit and is just the beginning of a string of original and well produced songs. Mista proves they can handle everything from a slow ballad to an up tempo groove. There are no weaknesses in this album.

The CD is composed of 12 tracks that each have a tight bass line along with melody and harmony. The songs that stand out are "Tears, Scars, and Lies," which is about the emotions of going through a break-up, "I Think That I Should Be," which is a lover's ballad, and "Blackberry Molasses," the song about dealing with everyday real life. The track "Crossroads" shows off the group's social conscience about what is going on in the world, but with a more laid back tone than "Blackberry Molasses."

A favorite track overall is the song "Lady" because of its simplicity and mellow sound. "Lady" does the best of showcasing the group's talent in harmonizing an exchanging lead vocal. This is the track meant for those close moments with that special someone.

The group, Mista, is made up of 16-year-olds Byron Reeder and Bobby Wilson, 13-year-old Brandon Brown and 15-year-old Darryl Allen, who handles most of the leads on



Special to The Gamecock

the tracks. All of the members prove they combine to produce a unique R&B sound.

With a debut as good as this one, and with one of the best production companies in Organized Noize, the future is looking good for Mista.

What's your sign?

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Make sure you understand what they're supposed to do Monday morning. Money you've been waiting for could come in by Wednesday. That's good, because there's plenty you want to spend it on. You'll learn a lot if you work with a more experienced person on Thursday and Friday. Entertain a wide range of characters for a stimulating intellectual encounter this weekend.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Finish a tough job this morning or suffer the consequences. By this afternoon, you'll have lots more control over your destiny, although there are still mitigating circumstances. Seek out the truth and the facts to back it up on Tuesday and Wednesday. Go shopping for things you need on Thursday and Friday. Study over the weekend by surrounding yourself with interesting people.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A friend can give you the answer Monday morning, in private. Consult with a wise person Tuesday or Wednesday to make sure you know what's going on behind the scenes. Wait to make your decisive move until Thursday or Friday. Those are also your best days for group endeavors and team sports. Go shopping for something important over the weekend. If you're not sure what to get, take along an expert.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Don't get into a grumpy professor's face this morning; he or she may snap. You and your buddies can find an end run around a difficult situation on Tuesday. Others help you out of a jam on Wednesday, too. You're weighed down with chores Thursday and Friday. Persevere—you'll get your reward over the weekend. Take care of an older person's demands, then get out of town with your sweetheart.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Accept an exotic foreigner's suggestion Monday morning. That relationship could last. Cater to a weird professor's whims most of Tuesday and Wednesday. Get together with the gang Wednesday night. You and your team will win on Thursday and Friday, both in sports and with an educational project. Besides, it's fun working together. Finish up old homework over the weekend. Once you get the paper done, you can go out.

Aries (March 21-April 19). Wait until tonight or tomorrow to start a big project, and it'll go easier all the way through. Get your money lined up first. Wednesday should be fun, but you could clash with an authority figure later that night. Don't drink and drive or stay out after curfew. Professors will be tough as nails on Thursday and Friday. A little humor will help a lot. Gather with friends this

weekend and go over your notes together.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Settle a disagreement with your partner this morning. Later in the day your attention will be diverted to financial matters. Pay bills, balance the checkbook, do your accounting homework and apply for a student loan from then through Wednesday. Get an attractive foreigner to help you with your language lessons Thursday and Friday. Comply with an older person's demands over the weekend.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Finish up old business Monday morning so you'll have time for a friendly competition that afternoon. Face the facts Tuesday and Wednesday, even if they don't come the way you'd like. Pool resources with a friend on Thursday or Friday to get an expensive item you both want. Travel with your sweetheart to distant places this weekend.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Renew an old friendship Monday morning. Your workload increases that afternoon and stays intense clear through Wednesday. Ask a partner to help with a tough project Thursday and Friday. Get your financial situation squared away on Saturday so you can go shopping on Sunday. You'll find some fabulous stuff at amazingly affordable prices if you investigate the swap meets and garage sales.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Listen to a roommate's concerns Monday morning, or you'll have a bigger problem later. You'll be even luckier than usual at games and love affairs on Tuesday and Wednesday. Thursday and Friday are workdays. Don't plan any big dates for then. Any sort of commitment made will stand the test of time.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll retain what you learn Monday morning—cram

your head full of good information. A roommate's idiosyncrasies could get in the way of your studies Tuesday and Wednesday. You may have to go to the library those days. Thursday and Friday are your best this week for romance, so grab that opportunity. It looks like you'll have to work over the weekend.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Unexpected costs put a dent in your budget. Catch up on your studies from Monday night through Wednesday. You'll find out all sorts of interesting things. Household tasks demand attention Thursday and Friday. Learn even more with the help of a stern tutor. It's been a tough week, but you can make up for it over the weekend. You and your sweetheart can create a foundation to build a life upon.

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NOVEMBER 21

The Horseshoe, 7:00 p.m.

THIS WEEK'S MOVIES...

All Movies are \$2 and begin at 8 p.m. in the Russell House Theater.

ZOU-ZOU

The story of a talented Cinderella taking the lead on opening night

WEDNESDAY