Country singer displays versatility, skill in concert

Singer-songwriter Lyle Lovett gave an extraordinarily entertaining and moving performance of acoustic country music Monday night at the Paul Green Theatre. Lovett's concert was notable for both its superlative music and for the artist's remarkable rapport with the crowd, and in this performance Lovett showed why he has the reputation of being one of the most promising young country performers to emerge in recent years.

The show consisted of only Lovett singing and playing acoustic guitar and John Hagan playing cello, but this unusual instrumentation worked brilliantly. Lovett's guitar playing was uniformly excellent, and Hagan's work on the cello was a revelation. Hagen would sometimes pluck out

David Hester

Concert

iazz lines on the cello as if it were an acoustic bass, sometimes bow the cello in a style that was reminiscent of old-time country fiddle playing, and sometimes play lines of classical music. The two players worked well together, and this unique instrumentation gave a new and very enjoyable feel to Lovett's work.

Lovett's singing was also quite good. Lovett's voice had the proper mellow and easy sound on ballads like "Closing Time" and "The Waltzing Fool," but it also seemed extremely

strong and assured on more intense of sadness and acceptance. songs like "You Can't Resist It." Lovett's voice seemed as true in performance as it does on his recordings, and his vocal performance Monday night sometimes even seemed to surpass his recorded ones. His growly-textured vocals on songs like "She's No Lady, She's My Wife," for example, were an unexpected but welcome surprise.

This musical excellence served to enhance the inherent beauty of Lovett's songs. Lovett's selections Monday night demonstrated his versatility as a songwriter, and they also showed his talent for writing affecting and memorable lyrics. "If I Were The Man You Wanted," for example, is a bittersweet rumination on a love affair that didn't quite work out, and Lovett's performance of this

Lovett also gave a riveting performance of the title track of his upcoming album Pontiac. Lovett

sings from the standpoint of a lonely old man in this song, and he paints a brief but vivid portrait of someone who is misunderstood and depressed. Most of Lovett's songs were much

more optimistic than these two, however. "If I Had A Boat," for example, is a gentle and wistful song about Lovett's attempts to reconcile his two childhood dreams of being a cowboy and being a sailor. Lovett also sang some songs that seemed primarily intended to make his listeners laugh. "Stop And Do It Gal," which Lovett described as a laugh. story about a man's attempt at finding romantic fulfillment at a convenience store, was one of the more lightsong perfectly brought out its tone hearted of these tunes. Lovett also

performed a wonderful song called that he could go over to Memorial "Fat Babies Have No Pride," which may be one of the silliest songs ever written.

The enjoyability of the concert was greatly enhanced by Lovett's rapport with the audience. Lovett spoke to the audience frequently between songs, and his relaxed and friendly tone seemed to add an even greater sense of intimacy to the already intimate setting of the Paul Green Theatre. Lovett sometimes spoke seriously about his backround or about his motivations for writing different songs, but his comments generally seemed intended to put the audience at ease and make them

He introduced "Stop and Do It Gal," for example, by saying that after the song was over he was going to take a 20-minute intermission so Hall to ask Dr. Ruth Westheimer why he wrote the song. The audience responded very enthusiastically to Lovett's banter, and this interaction made the concert seem to be more a form of personal communication between artist and audience instead of being merely a presentation of a series of songs.

Lovett's performance was successful on a variety of levels, and it showed off the many facets of his great talent. His skill as a songwriter was amply displayed, as was his skill as a performer who is able to relate to his audience. Lovett's masterful display of musical communication demonstrates what country music can be when it is at its best, and it made his concert in the Paul Green Theatre Monday night a memorable

Irish band to bring unique musical style to ArtsCenter show

By KELLY RHODES Staff Writer

A tapestry of fiddle, accordian, bodhran, bouzouki and cello music will be woven by the quasi-traditional Irish band De Dannan at the Arts-Center in Carrboro tonight.

The 12-year-old band from Ireland is on tour to promote the new album Ballroom on Green Linnet Records.

De Dannan's music creates a sound that is described as sweet and reflective one moment and driving and impassioned the next.

De Dannan consists of Frankie Gavin, Alec Finn, Johnny McDonagh, Dolores Keane, Caroline Lavelle and Martin O'Connor. The musicians' strong musical backgrounds blend to create De Dannan's unique sound.

Gavin is from Corrundulla, Ireland, where he won both the fiddle and tin whistle "All Ireland" competition by the age of 17. In De Dannan, Gavin plays fiddle, viola and flute.

The bouzouki, a mandolin-like Greek instrument, is Finn's specialty. He also is knowledgeable about a number of different guitar styles.

Drummer "Ringo" McDonagh is responsible for reviving the bodhran, an archaic hand-held Irish drum known only to historians until the

1960s. McDonagh studied African, Eastern European and jazz drum styles.

Keane made her musical debut on Irish radio when she was 5 years old. A native of Caherlistrane, Ireland, Keane has participated in De Dannan since 1976, adding emotion and warmth to the unusual Irish music.

Royal College of Music graduate Lavelle adds the unique angle of cello music to Irish music. A member of De Dannan since 1985, Lavelle has a broad musical background that includes classical, new wave and rock

O'Connor has played accordian since the age of 9. The Irishman joined De Dannan in 1983 after making a successful solo effort called The Connaught Man's Rambles, which is regarded by many as one of the finest accordian albums.

The band's album Ballroom is seen by critics as De Dannan's most eclectic so far, with music ranging from traditional Irish tunes to Klezmer music to early Americana. Keane wrote four of the album's

De Dannan will perform tonight at 8:30 p.m. at the ArtsCenter. Call 942-2041 for ticket information.

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Hackney passed by about 10 votes in the

House," he said. Hackney said he did not support Senate Bill 114, which passed the

legislature last year. The bill prevented the GSX Corporation from building a hazardous waste treatment plant to deal with

waste from the Southeastern region, he said. Gov. Jim Martin should choose a site for a plant without bowing to the

lobbying of individual areas, he said. "You've got to have an administration that has the guts to go ahead

and choose a site," he said. During a question-and-answer session after the speech, Hackney also spoke about the suit filed last week by the N.C. Republican Party, which alleges that superior court elections are unconstitutional.

Renovations

was not scheduled to begin until the spring semester was underway.

However, once the work starts, store customers and employees may be bothered by dust, equipment and power problems, he said.

"Customers will find it an inconvenience," he said. "I'm hoping people's tempers will stay calm.'

Tufts said the biggest question is the construction's potential effect on student book rush for the fall semester of 1988. He said incentives will be offered to the contractor to speed up the work, but if the building is still being renovated in August, book sales will be set up elsewhere.

"If we're not open for business here, we will be selling books to students somewhere on campus," he said.

Student Body President Brian Bailey said he didn't expect the renovations to have much of an effect on student activities in the Pit.

the Republicans' part, Hackney said, "The people of North Carolina want Democratic judges, and the system we have has worked.

As the number of Republicans in North Carolina grows, the election of Republican judges will occur naturally, he said.

Hackney said he expects education and the creation of a state lottery to be controversial issues in the General Assembly this year.

The legislature must decide in this session whether to institute the teachers' career ladder program statewide, he said.

The lottery will have strong opponents in the General Assembly, but it will probably pass because Virginia will have a state lottery, he said. It is likely that South Carolina will Calling the suit a political move on create a lottery as well, he added.

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"It's a little concern, not a great one," he said. "As long as most of the Pit is reopened by spring, I'll be happy."

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