

Are You Ready to Make the Pledge?



DEGARMO & KEY

Thursday September, 21
7:30 p.m.

Edited By Noel T. Manning, II

The high energy rock and roll band DeGarmo & Key will invade Boiling Springs on September 21st, appearing in the Paul Porter Arena on the very campus of Gardner-Webb College along with the Christian rap of DC Talk.

The widely-acclaimed, Grammy and Dove nominated D&K, will perform music from their latest album, *The Pledge*, as well as tunes spanning their eleven year history.

On the one hand, what may be unseen initially will prove to be the key distinction of DeGarmo & Key, setting them far apart from their contemporaries. It is more than their musical ability. It is more than Dana Key being the seventh generation grandson of Francis Scott (Oh say can you see) Key, composer of our national anthem.

What makes D&K different is that they are "sub-culture missionaries" reaching thousands through their "self-styled crusades," each carefully crafted with rock 'n' roll music, preaching, and an altar call. That's evangelism D&K style -- and DeGarmo & Key are truly evangelists in the purest sense of the word.

Eddie and Dana met in the first grade in hometown Memphis, the cradle of rhythm and blues. They grew up in the shadow of Graceland and Elvis, dreaming of someday making it big in the music business.

The fame and fortune they sought ultimately came within reach. During high school they were in a band called "Globe." An opportunity was offered to tour with a major secular rock group and, also, London records, then representing the Moody Blues and Rolling Stones, offered them a recording contract.

Then came a special weekend -- an experience that changed their lives and priorities. They were the same talented musicians, but they had a new orientation. God would come first. Within months they left "Globe" and formed the DeGarmo & Key Christian rock band.

Since their debut album in 1978, "This Time Thru," DeGarmo & Key have been described as "cutting edge" musicians who lead the way in rock 'n' roll music and video. Their music videos have appeared on MTV and other rock video outlets. It was the D&K "Six Six Six" video that has been described as the "ground-breaker" for other Christian rock bands on MTV. The D&K video "Every Moment" was shot on location in Zaire, Africa, and is part of a promotional effort helping support Missions Aviation Fellowship, an international organization transporting essential food and medical supplies to remote regions of the world.

D&K are innovators -- in music and ministry. Since their inception, the band has consistently been out in front setting new standards of performance and stretching the parameters of acceptance for Christian music. They still get the secular offers. They still win awards. More importantly, they have remained true to their mission as rock 'n' roll evangelists.

So, please join the S.E.A. of Gardner-Webb on Thursday, September 21 at 7:30 p.m...with DeGarmo & Key...and make the Pledge.

DeGarmo & Key
The Pledge/An album review
Produced by Ron W. Griffin
Power Discs

Ed DeGarmo and Dana Key strike a new balance, reconciling the hard-changing rock assault of recent effort with the pop anthems that gained for them their greatest commercial acceptance.

The Pledge achieves a hybrid sound -- organic, human, up-to-date and well-crafted. Eddie and Dana reportedly had written 35 songs in preparation for this album; the 10 that finally made it reflect a sober concern for the creeping darkness of our

times.

"Boycott Hell" sets the tone with a call to militant witness, although one imagines it would be rather warm on the picket line! "Let's Get Upset" echoes the alarm. "Aliens and Strangers" puts a fresh twist on the "heaven is my home" theme, as Dana looks around at his church and realizes, "My closest friends/are aliens and strangers/travelers here, living with danger." D&K revisits "All the Losers Win" in the song "I'm Accepted," which comforts with the encouragement that, "I'm accepted by the One who matters most."

"He died for me/I'll live for Him" is "The Pledge" these songs are based upon. "Life in the New Age" and "Who Will" rail against the devaluation of human life, whether through abortion or "bad karma." "If God Is For Us (Who Can Be Against Us)" puts a positive spin on the record and -- a happy ending. The Pledge is a solid effort, cross my heart.

By Mark Eischer

DC TALK (de ce tok)

1. hip hop (see rap) 2. street music with a Gospel message 3. rap with a melody line and vocals (see cutting edge) 4. ministry to young people that is recognized by Dr. Jerry Falwell and Liberty University (see shattered stereotypes) 5. debut album released March 1989 (see ForeFront cassettes and CDs)

A fresh new musical sound has come from the nation's capitol in the form of the rap group DC Talk. Stretching the boundaries of both rap and Contemporary Christian music, Toby McKeegan, Michael Tait, and Kevin Smith combine hip hop (rap) with exciting vocals. Their performance is like none other.

DC Talk will be performing "Heavenbound" and other songs from their debut release on ForeFront cassettes and CDs as opening artists on the DeGarmo & Key 1989 Pledge Tour.