

Cross charms UNC crowd

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Chapel Hill, working in a restaurant, learning to play the guitar, and frequenting a club called The Endangered Species where he drank beer and threw darts. When a performer failed to show up one night, Cross said his friends convinced him to play for them, adding that the owner of the club liked

what he heard and invited him back the next weekend.

"In a few weeks I moved from sitting at a table to sitting up on stage, with a naked light-bulb over my head—very sensual," Cross said.

"That's had a controlling effect on my style. Talking to the audience is an integral part of my performance."

Cross' stories are often as long and entertaining as the songs they introduce.

During Tuesday's concert, he told a number of tales, including one about his Uncle Josh, who expressed his philosophy of life in one word: "Whoopee!" Another concerned a Scotswoman at the Highland Games, who clued him in about what Scotsmen don't wear beneath their kilts. In a third, he talked about student life during the days of the drug revolution.

"I don't alter my performance style much in big auditoriums or small clubs," Cross said, adding that playing in both environments honed different aspects of his performance.

"In a concert hall I can do the pretty, mellow tunes that wouldn't go over in a rowdy club. If I just played in one setting, one side of me wouldn't develop," he said.

"I prefer to play in a setting where the sound is good and the audience is comfortable."

Unlike some performers who first play in small clubs and at small colleges, then move on to bigger clubs, and auditoriums, Cross plays in a combination of places. Lately he's played in halls seating 20,000 and clubs holding less than a hundred, including the Club Lena in New York state, a club "so small you couldn't pack in more than a 100 people if you used Mazola oil." His tours



Mike Cross

have taken him all over the South, north to Chicago and Michigan and as far west as Colorado.

Cross entertains his audiences with Irish and traditional mountain fiddle tunes as well as with original songs on guitar. He bought his first violin in a pawn shop and experimented with traditional Appalachian mountain music until he heard a recording of a fiddler from Ireland's County Sligo. Now, he says, "If I had the time, I would start playing Celtic fiddle music and wouldn't stop until I dropped. I wouldn't even stop to eat."

For the past two years, he said, his favorite band has been the Bothy Band, an Irish group using a fiddle, bouzouki, and harpsichord to produce hard-driving Celtic music. Their energy impressed Cross, who said they sound like five half-drunk men who met during a violent storm. He said he hopes some day to be able to play his music as energetically as they play theirs.

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"WHY DO THE HEATHEN RAGE?"

Psalms 2:1 and Acts 4:25

"THERE IS NO PEACE, SAITH MY GOD, TO THE WICKED. CRY ALOUD, SPARE NOT, LIFT UP THY VOICE LIKE A TRUMPET, AND SHOW MY PEOPLE THEIR TRANSGRESSION, AND THE HOUSE OF JACOB THEIR SINS," Isaiah 57:21, etc.

No peace to the wicked! There are two places in the Bible that tell of peace among the nations when they shall beat their swords into plow-shares, and their spears into pruning hooks — Isaiah 2nd chapter, and Micah 4th chapter. Both messages are practically the same. The following quote is from Isaiah:

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of The Lord's House shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills: and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up unto the House of The Lord, to the House of The God of Jacob: and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and The Word of The Lord from Jerusalem. And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plow-shares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. O House of Jacob, Come ye, and let us walk in the Light of The Lord."

This shall come to pass in the last days when The House of God is exalted above all else in the earth: on the highest hill of a mountain in the top of the mountains. All nations shall flow unto that High Place to be taught God's Ways in order to walk in His Paths. It is then that The Lord will judge among the nations and bring peace.

Are you and I who claim to be Christian and heaven bound flowing up to that High Place, or, are we flowing downward seeking another level? It is our duty and business to seek and proclaim peace for ourselves and as many others as we can. Jesus Christ took a whip of cords and lashed out at the hypocrites and profane wretches in The Temple, The Lord's House, and later His disciples remembered that is was written of Him: "THE ZEAL OF THINE HOUSE HATH EATEN ME UP!"

What is "eating on us?" The story is told of a goat being shipped by express: the agent sent his porter to find out where it was to go, who returned, and reported: "Dat goat done 'et up' where it gwine!" It is to be feared that many of us so-called Christians have "eaten-up" our heaven bound tag, if we ever had one! Our zeal for the world, the flesh, and the devil has consumed us, and our love for money, pleasure, sports, etc. has caused us to lower and degrade the House of God, His Day, His Teachings, and His Paths! How then can we expect peace!

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