

Michelle Shocked was a Texas-born teenage runaway who mesmerized fans with her 1988 debut, "Short Sharp Shocked."

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Michelle Shocked wins fight with record label, releases triumphant new album

By Don Adair
Correspondent

Michelle Shocked's new CD, "Kind Hearted Woman," is a musical and personal triumph.

As powerful as anything she has created in her career, "Kind Hearted Woman" is a stirring – and often harrowing – account of life in rural America.

But just as important, it represents Shocked's victory over record-label greed: After four years of peddling a basement-tapes version at concerts because her label wouldn't release it, Shocked is finally able to deliver her fourth legitimate record to the world at large.

Like Neil Young, who stood up to David Geffen, and Prince, who battled with Warner Brothers, Shocked went toe-to-toe with Mercury Records and won the day.

Shocked will appear with her band, the Casualties of



Concert

Michelle Shocked will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday at The Met. Tickets are \$12.40 and \$14.50, available at Street Music, G&B Select-a-Seat outlets or call (800) 325-SEAT.

Wah, at The Met Saturday.

In her version of the conflict with Mercury, it was headstrong artist against heartless corporation: Her original contract provided her only with a small advance but gave her ownership of her master tapes. Three records into a seven-record contract, Mercury decided it wasn't making enough money on her music, so they simply stopped cooperating.

At first, they cited "stylistic inconsistency," but finally admitted they didn't like the terms of the original agreement. Shocked had to sue.

"I filed a lawsuit in August of '95 that challenged Mercury under the California

labor laws enacted to prevent indentured servitude," she told a reporter recently. "It opened a can of worms, and then they returned phone calls and negotiated a settlement."

Continued: **Concert/D5**

the love tangles in these plays, and their tender sentiment," wrote the Durants in "The Story of Civilization." "Here too, as in Versailles and the salons... women ruled and had the deciding word; and the analysis of feeling replaced the problem of politics and the heroics of war."

Marivaux did not restrict his pen to the theater. He also wrote a novel in installments, "La Vie de Marianne," which was considered one of the high points of French literature.



In a scene from "The Triumph of Love," K hand of Linda Montalvo as Leontine.

Friday in Weekend

Symphony swings

Orchestra cuts loose with guest conductor Norman Leyden for SuperPops Big Band Bash

By Jim Kershner
Staff writer

The heyday of the big-band era was

golden age of big-band music.

Leyden graduated from Yale University in 1938 and then went on to

from 1956 to 1959.

In this show, Leyden will lead the

The San Francisco Chronicle has performed with such players as Peppino D'Agostino, Peter Finger and Alex DeGrassi. He's reputed to have a ready wit, which he displays in

The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10, available at Auntie's, Dutch's, Petrucelli's, Street Music and the Sound Hole.

Concert: Michelle Shocked comes back on the scene with new CD

Continued from D1

Now, she has a two-record deal with Private Records and is free to call her own shots. If history is any teacher, they will be formidable.

Shocked was a Texas-born teenage runaway who mesmerized fans with her 1988 debut, "Short Sharp Shocked." She followed that with a big band record, "Captain Swing," and "Arkansas Traveler," an omnibus of Southern influences that featured performances by such personal heroes as Doc Watson, Taj Mahal, Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown, Norman Blake and Levon Helm.

Most recently, Shocked has been working on an R&B record with Tony! Toni! Tone! keyboardist Carl Wheeler, and she wants to cut a record in tribute to the music of her adopted home, New Orleans.

"How I see myself is a funky white girl who brings a lot to the party," she said.

The relationship between race and music seems to have become central to Shocked's world view. True to her Southern roots, and perhaps as a reaction to the racial aspects of her Mormon upbringing, Shocked has become something of a crusader for tearing down musical barriers.

"In the '20s and '30s, when music first started being recorded," she told an interviewer, "you could take the same song performed by white

musicians, and it was called hillbilly or jug-band music, and the same songs performed by black musicians were sold as race music or blues.

"As an American musician, you're selling yourself short if you're allowing yourself to be put into one single genre."

If, in fact, her next record is a funky one, it will stand in deep contrast to "Kind Hearted Woman." Deeply rural, the album's inflections are Appalachian and Southern, though its reality and protagonists could be black or white.

Its subject matter is struggle and transcendence, and it opens with a song called "Stillborn," which chronicles the day in the life of a midwife who has just helped deliver a stillborn child.

"Kind Hearted Woman" touches on the plight of women in rural America, on the vagaries of weather and crops, on death, drink and the pain of coming to terms with the hardness of life.

But there's also redemption, and for Shocked the redemption is in the music. Her concerts have been defined in terms that approach the spiritual.

"It seemed miraculous," Roberta Penn wrote in the Seattle Weekly, "500 fans standing quietly, body to body in the sweltering womb that is Moe's. Perhaps they knew that after Michelle Shocked's two-and-a-half-hour show, they would be reborn."

released Tuesday.

It was only the second-ever fourth place showing by CBS, which has been undergoing a resurgence and is still in second place for the season. Its only other fourth-place finish came in September 1995.

Fox's telecast of Game One of the World Series on Sunday night finished sixth in the weekly ratings. The last two games of the National League Championship Series between the Braves and Cardinals each landed in the top 20.

"Once the World Series is over, our ratings will build back up," promised David Poltrack, CBS executive vice president for research and planning.

"ER" was the week's top-rated show, followed by "Seinfeld." All five shows in NBC's Thursday night lineup finished among the week's top ten.

ABC was boosted by the season premiere of "NYPD Blue," which tied in the ratings with the opening game of the World Series. A strong NFL Monday Night Football matchup between Green Bay and San Francisco and Michael J. Fox's new sitcom, "Spin City," also were top performers for ABC.

Prime-time ratings as compiled by Nielsen Media Research for Oct. 14-20. Top 20 listings include the week's ranking, with rating for the week, season-to-date rankings in parentheses, and total homes.

An "X" in parentheses denotes one-time-only presentation. A rating measures the percentage of the nation's 97.0 million TV homes. Each ratings point represents 970,000 households.

1. (1) "ER," NBC, 22.7, 22.0 million homes
2. (2) "Seinfeld," NBC, 20.4, 19.8 million homes
3. (4) "NFL Monday Night Football," ABC, 18.9, 18.3 million homes
4. (3) "Suddenly Susan," NBC, 17.0, 16.5 million homes
5. (5) "Friends," NBC, 16.1, 15.6 million homes
6. (X) "Fox World Series Game 1," Fox, 15.7, 15.2 million homes
6. (8) "NYPD Blue," ABC, 15.7, 15.2 million homes

million homes
17. (16) "Roseanne," Fox, 11.2, 10.9 million homes
21. (11) "Pearl," CBS, 11.0
21. "3rd Rock From the Sun," CBS, 11.0
23. "Cybill," CBS, 11.0
23. "Murphy Brown," CBS
23. "Touched by an Angel," CBS

Concert to local hospitals

Three local bands, Ivy, Mama's Dogma and Companions — will benefit concert for Children's Miracle Network tonight at The Metropolitan. Headliners Solar developed a following of regular gigs at the Metropolitan. Ugly Rumors Lounge, Fort Spokane Brewery, eclectic band combinations of the Beat Irish folk.

The concert benefits local hospitals. Tickets available at G&B's outlets or call (800) 762-7627. Tickets are also on Sacred Heart Medical Center's public relations office.

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