

February folk festival

The Winter Roots Music Festival presents the best of Vancouver's folk music as well as the sounds of Africa, Japan, China, the Caribbean and the fabulous singing and songs of England's Clive Gregson and Christine Collister.

It starts tonight at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre.

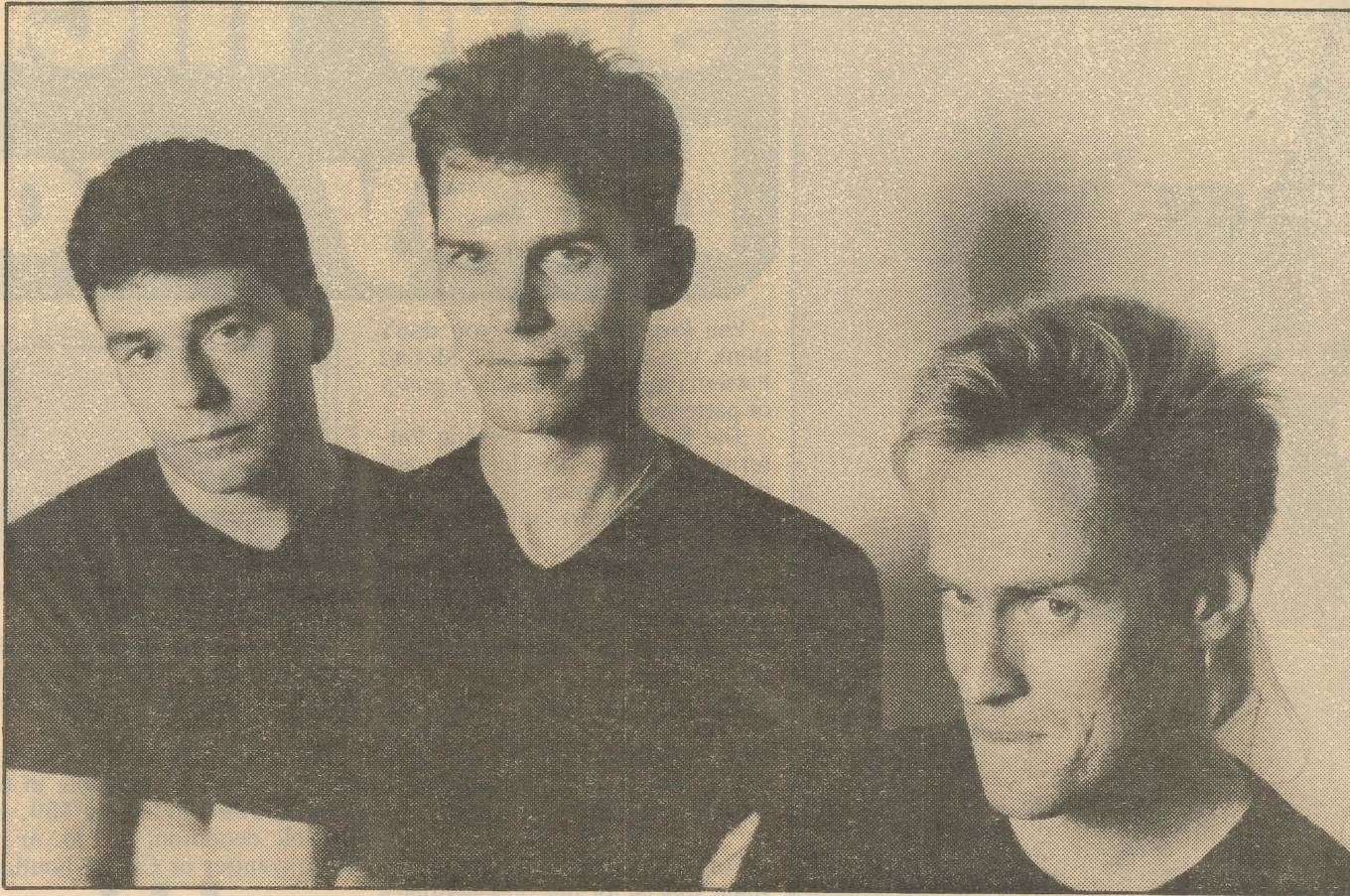
The festival is such an obvious idea — a terrific way to thaw our cold spell and fill a musical void — it's surprising no one thought of it before.

However, it has taken last year's formation of the Acoustic Connection Music and Cultural Society, which unites six different folk organizations, to co-ordinate and mobilize the home-town folk community.

The Winter Roots Festival takes place at both the VECC (1895 Venables) and the WISE Club (around the corner at 1882 Adanac). Tonight's bill features Stephen Fearing, Francis Xavier, Takeo Yamashiro and the UBC Chinese Music Ensemble.

Tomorrow the Cultch hosts Bill Henderson, Shari Ulrich and Roy (Bim) Forbes with John McLachlan and Canadian Sky, Sam Weis and the Shaman Society Singers while the WISE Club has Mango Dub in a late show starting at 11 p.m.

Saturday begins with mini-concerts and workshops at the WISE Club from 11 in the morning. That evening at 7:30 p.m., Gregson and Collister are at the Cultch with Natural Elements, African Heritage and Eileen McGann. The late-night cabaret presents The Nyetz.



■ Vancouver band Spirit Of the West will perform twice on Saturday at the Winter Roots Music Festival.



There are more workshops and performances at the WISE Club on Sunday afternoon to 5 p.m., when Spirit Of the West and square-dance troupe No Mean Feet take over.

Spirit Of the West is back at the WISE Club at 8 p.m. with the Sunday Umbrella Band, which will host an old-fashioned Ceilidh.

For ticket and other information, call 684-4022.

Coinciding with the Winter Roots Festival is the creation of the Scandalous Folk Club at Scandals Restaurant, 127 Lonsdale in North Vancouver.

Every second and fourth Monday, starting Feb. 13, the restaurant will present a feature act and an open stage for

willing folkies. First up for the restaurant/club is Eileen McGann.

From the Heart Of the Drive is a fund-raiser for Co-op Radio (102.7 FM) with Key Change (seven-woman band), Hot House (jazz and torch songs sung by Bolero Lava's Vanessa Richards), poets Maxine Gadd and Gerry Gilbert, The IT Girls (flapper music from the '20s), singer Margo Izard, and jazz-types Lunar Adventures. At the Cultch (natch) from 7:30 p.m. For further information,

call Co-op Radio's Brent Kane or Coreen Douglas at 684-8494.

Sunday, the Soft Rock Cafe and CFOX are collaborating on the first of a series of live broadcasts. Live At the Soft Rock Cafe is hosted by Shannon Gunn and also features Harris Van Berkel and Dee Daniels. Taping is at 8 p.m.

If funk music with a sense of humor is more your style, The Groovaholics are headlining their own Valentine's Dance, Tuesday, at the Station Street Arts Centre, 930 Station St.