

Grammys pluck area guitarists

Mark Hanson and Doug Smith are among a dozen acoustic players on a CD nominated for an award

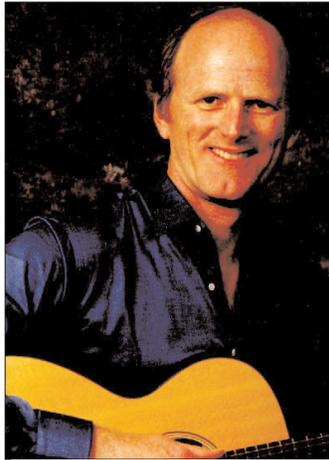
By **JOHN FOYSTON**
THE OREGONIAN

The tag line on the "Pink Guitar" CD says, "acoustic guitar solos of Henry Mancini's most beloved melodies performed by the world's greatest acoustic guitarists" - two of whom are Mark Hanson and Doug Smith of Portland's Acoustic Guitar Summit.

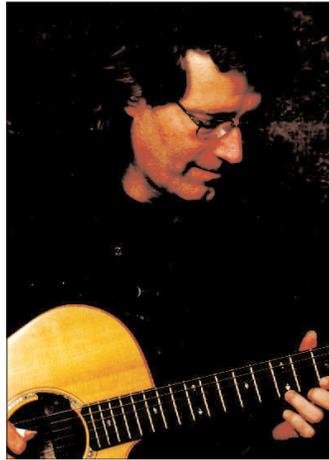
Smith, Hanson and the 10 other guitarists who arranged and performed songs on the album just learned that they may soon have to make room on their mantels: "Pink Guitar" has been nominated for a Grammy in the Best Pop Instrumental Album category. Other nominees in the category include CDs from Mason Williams (also an Oregonian), Dave Koz, Boney James and a Luther Vandross tribute album.

They were invited to contribute to the album, which is on Solid Air Records, a California label that has released several of Smith's albums and a duet CD by the two guitarists.

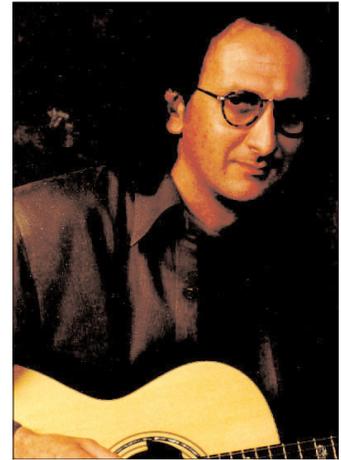
Smith played "It's Easy to Say" from the movie "10," Hanson played "The Sweetheart Tree" from "The Great Race," and they played a duet - the only one on the album -



Mark Hanson



Doug Smith



Terry Robb

on "A Shot in the Dark."

The award ceremony is Feb. 13, and Hanson and his wife, Greta Pedersen, plan to attend. "It's pretty exciting," he said. "Now we can call ourselves 'Grammy nominated guitarists.'"

Grammy or no, Hanson and Smith are well-known among fingerstyle acoustic guitarists: Smith for his several instrumental albums and Hanson for albums and the wide array of instructional books, DVDs and CDs he's published and sells at his www.AccentOnMusic.com Web site.

Along with Terry Robb, a wizard guitarist and producer in his own right, the pair are likely most familiar to Portlanders as the Acoustic Guitar Summit.

They'll play their 10th annual holiday concert at 8 p.m. Saturday in St. Anne's Chapel, Marylhurst University, 17600 Highway 43; \$15; details: online at www.AccentOnMusic.com or 503-699-1814.

It'll be the band's first concert as a trio. Until last March it included Paul Chasman, who left the group to devote time to his writing career.

His departure changes the band's chemistry and sound, Hanson said.

"Paul was a wonderful player and arranger," he said, "and with four guitars, our sound was very powerful and quite dense. With

the three of us, it's less dense and there's perhaps more clarity there - there's room to do inner voicing things."

Hanson said the band has worked up a half-dozen Christmas carols for the show, and that he and Smith will duet on "A Shot in the Dark."

At the last rehearsal, Hanson said, there was some discussion whether each of the dozen guitarists on "Pink Guitar" will get a Grammy if the album wins in February, or if producer James Jensen gets the real Grammy and everyone else gets replicas.

And what about the dreaded "Grammy envy" syndrome? Will Terry Robb (who has produced and played with the late John Fahey and many others) get all muley without a Grammy nomination or his own?

"He wasn't taking it too hard," Hanson said. "He told us he'd just won two more Muddy Awards from the Cascade Blues Association. 'How many is that now?' we asked him. 'Sixteen,' he said, 'but who's counting?'"

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John Foyston: 503-221-8368
johnfoyston@news.oregonian.com