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Cracker duo to perform at Maxwell's

BY ROBERT HICKS
SPECIAL TO THE DAILY RECORD
Wednesday, April 25, 2007

CRACKER Today, 9 p.m. Maxwell's 1039 Washington St., Hoboken Tickets are \$20 Call (201) 653-1703 www.maxwellsnj.com

Cracker front man David Lowery has tried to balance his familial responsibilities and his music career in recent years.

"I think for me it was a question of whether I wanted to pursue being a musician and an artist as my full-time career," he said from Richmond, Va.

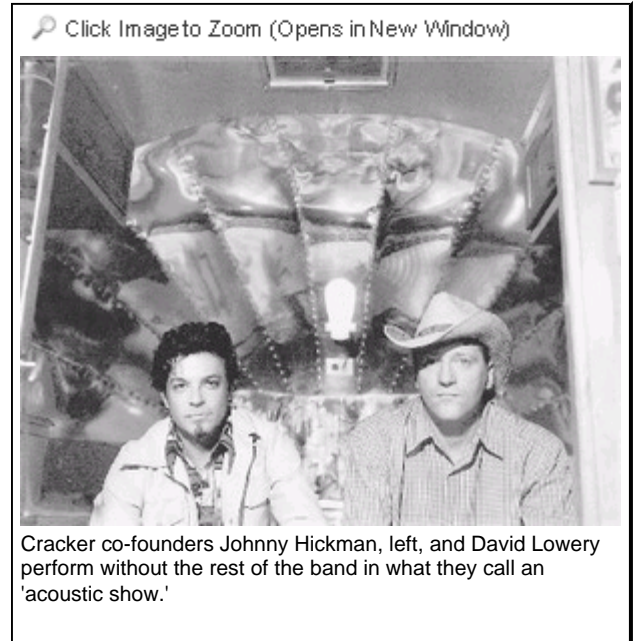
"It's very difficult being in your 40s and having a family and being away on the road so much. But I don't think I would ever stop recording music and making albums and playing shows."

Cracker co-founders Lowery (acoustic guitar) and Johnny Hickman (electric guitar) will give an "acoustic show" tonight at Maxwell's in Hoboken.

"It's not really an acoustic show," Lowery said. "We just call it 'acoustic' to let people know it's not the full band."

Lowery and Hickman started presenting these informal "acoustic shows" in smaller towns in 2002. The original idea was to satisfy Cracker fans in smaller markets without the expense of a full-band tour, but the "acoustic shows" have developed into a regular part of the band's touring schedule and a distinct identity.

"We do maybe about 20 per year," he said. "We



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just do it when it works into our schedule. We usually do a batch of them. This time we're doing a week of them in the Northeast."

Lowery and Hickman draw from Cracker's entire repertoire for these "acoustic shows," mixing in hit songs with early material and more recent songs and Camper Van Beethoven songs, too.

"Our fans have come to seeing this as an alternative to seeing the band. Being more stripped down, it's is more about the lyrics and acoustic arrangements of the songs," he said.

For Lowery, these "acoustic shows" allow he and Hickman to focus more attention on the dynamics between them and on the lyrics and stories in the songs.

Cracker released its latest CD, "Greenland," in late 2006. Written and recorded over four years, the eclectic recording is highly personal and thematic.

"I needed to find a thread that went through the songs," he said. "The theme that goes through 'Greenland' is loss, whether it's losing one's innocence or losing one's lover. Or the loss could be somebody dies or literally your gear gets stolen. That's not to say it's a dark record, but there is some black humor in these songs."

Cracker and Camper Van Beethoven hosted the First Annual Camp Out at Pappy and Harriet's Pioneertown Palace in California's High Desert on Sept. 9 and 10, 2005. The concert footage is now available on DVD in 5.1 surround sound.

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