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Red Clay Ramblers

American music presented in Damascus

Music has no borders. It is universal. It unites nations.

"Music is not a product, but a process, the beginning of a process. It is constantly renewal. It starns the test as art by giving rise to traditions", said Blard Simpson member of the US musical band «Red Clay ramblers» currently visiting Syr a at the invitation of the Ministry of culture to show genuine artistic performances recalling the rich US country music legacy.

interviewed by S.T. Mr Simpson (Keyboard) said that the five- member hand started with Tommy Thom- son (leader), who plays the banjo in 1972, together with two other persons forming a trio of banjo, guitar and fiddle players, with the objective to promote the music of the Southern country during 1925 through 1935. It was, then a time whe string hands were very common. The themes were derived hom local miley giving birth to original works inspired by lyrics and idiomatic terms of the South.

Over the years, he said, the hand evolved varieties in-

cluding styled American music, mainly built on the charm and deep affection of a country or say mountain music, to which art is always graded in the first place. The band's first visit to the Middle East, Mr Simpson Said covers Syria, Jardan, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco.

The Red Clay Ramblers are

a multi- instrcmental, five piece string hand with roots in old- time mountain music.

Their music is an ingenious blend of hillbilly, country, blues, early jazz, Irish and Rock, coloured with Amer- ican high spirits, The Ramblers play fourteen different in- struments during their per- formance, ranging form American banjo to Greek wazouki.

The Ramblers appeared in

off- Braadway theatre per- formances of «Diamond studs» and «Big River», a wild west version of a shakespearean play called «The Merry wives of windsor, Texas», and have composed the sound tracks for the sam sheprd plays «a lie of the Mind» and «far North».

The group is currently working on Sam Shepherd's new film «Silent Tongne» in which they will appear on- Screen and perform 1970s medicine show music. They have eight record albums to their credit.

The Ramblers one: Tom- may Thopson Cleader, banjo, Christopher Frank (accor- dion, guitar, trombeon); clay Buckner (fiddle, harmonica, mandolin); Bland Simpson (Key board); John Herrick (Bass, Long- neck mandolin, trumpet, trombonbe, penny- whistle, guitar).

As for impressions regard- ing Syria, people and coun- try; Mr Simpson noted «I was greatly impressed, together with m colleagues, by the warm welcome we received from the Syrian audience and people in the streets. This is the intimate affection which stimulates us to come back to the world's most ancient capital».

Tomader Fateh



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