

SCENE

AUCKLAND STAR 7/3/91

Wait, then Shocked delivers the shivers

Michelle Shocked, Auckland Town Hall, last night.

The Texas singer-songwriter who's hard to categorise but easy to like gave an unusually subdued Town Hall audience a feast of her folk-rock-country repertoire last night.

Shocked is a protest singer and there would have been many who would have wanted to protest at the late start (around 25 minutes) and the strange free-for-all seating upstairs. It was much pleasanter to be standing up downstairs where the seats had all been removed.

Opener Guy Wishart, backed by keyboard-player Alan Brown, did his best, but his sound system only made audible the obvious words of his songs — his tunes and guitar playing were good, and what you could hear of his voice was fine.

There was no such trouble with Michelle Shocked, who appeared with an excellent fiddle player and guitarist, Wayne Bidwell from Sydney, after an an-

nounced 10-minute interval stretched to half an hour.

Shocked's sound system was crystal clear, as was every word she sang and every note she and Bidwell played.

Shocked performed over 20 songs in her 1½ hours on stage, with six from her third album *Captain Swing*. Highlights here were *The Cement Lament*, *Silent Ways* and *God Is a Real Estate Developer*.

And her second album, *Short, Sharp, Shocked*, got a good airing with seven songs, the best being *When I Grow Up*, *Graffiti Limbo* and the two she saved for her encore, *Memories of East Texas* and *Anchorage*.

She sent shivers down the spine with an anti-war song about a Vietnam war widow, the *Ballad of Penny Evans*, which she sang unaccompanied.

Shocked is an accomplished performer with excellent songs. She plays great guitar and has a powerful voice.—
BILL TAYLOR



FRANCES OLIVER

MICHELLE SHOCKED: Crystal clear.

Shocked fans sing along

MICHELLE Shocked says music is all about feel. To prove her point, she is offering readers of the Daily Telegraph Mirror a chance to take part in recording a song for her new album on March 24.

The winner also gets to have dinner with Michelle afterwards.

All you have to do is answer two simple questions. At what Sydney venue is Michelle's March 22 show? And what is the name of her latest album?

Send your entry, along with your name, age, address and phone number to Michelle Shocked competition, Phonogram Records, PO Box 112, Alexandria, 2015, by March 17.



THE DAILY TELEGRAPH MIRROR
Sydney, N.S.W.

- 7 MAR 1991

Date