

# Jesse adds new dimensions

By **JUAN RODRIGUEZ**  
for **The Gazette**

Jesse Winchester is introducing his new electric sound in town this week, at the Hotel Nelson's Eveché Club, in a show that is revealing new dimensions in the singer-songwriter's performing style.

Winchester's writing has a fine austere simplicity about it, something he's never wanted to tamper with; thus, local audiences have rarely seen him away from grappling solo with acoustic guitar

Now he has gathered together three sidemen who not only support him solidly but have also found themselves tackling more subtle sides of their musical development.

While Winchester is jangling moonglows on electric piano or striking out curious-



**JESSE WINCHESTER**  
austere simplicity

ly funky rhythm riffs on electric guitar, his trio adds deft touches to make the sound more complete and responsive to the performance of the songs themselves.

There are the booming and very stylish bass tones of Marty Harris (who has

previously played with Randy Bishop and Anne Andersen); the crafty contrast between cymbals and skins by drummer Chris Castle (who backed up Diane Dufresne and Aut'Chose among others); and the clear lickety-split guitar picking of Bob Cohen (late of Tony Roman and Long John Baldry).

The kind of rock 'n' roll Winchester demands of them has a deceptive laid-back quality, despite the singer's tense vocal concentration. His sound is a perhaps unwitting blend of country and jazz approaches, the kind of music rarely heard in the mainstream pop scene.

The band setting gives the singer time to stretch out and build atmosphere, such as in his classic travelling song, *Midnight Bus*, and a shimmering version of the

old Drifters hit *Under The Boardwalk*. There was *Yankee Lady*, but *Susie Q* as well.

Winchester offered his own seasonal greetings with a lovely solo rendition of *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* and closed his show with a rousing *Will The Circle Be Unbroken*.

