

# For Support During Guitarist's Illness

Dennis Drew, keyboardist with the band, said, "This is a great loss, a terrible tragedy."

Drew said Wednesday he had no further comment on his friend's death.

"I'm not ready to say anything yet," he said. "I'm going to the funeral home to be with his mom and dad."

Rob was born Robert Norman Buck on Aug. 1, 1958, in Jamestown. He started playing

guitar at the age of 6 and decided to become a professional guitarist at 16 after seeing *The Jimi Hendrix Story*.

Buck formed 10,000 Maniacs with Drew, Steven Gustafson, John Lombardo and Natalie Merchant in 1981, with the band picking its name for its shock value from the 1964 horror film *2,000 Maniacs*.

Buck was listed as one of the 100 greatest guitarists of all time

by *Guitar Player Magazine*.

Buck wrote the music for some of the band's best-known hits, including "Hey Jack Kerouac," and "What's The Matter Here?"

Merchant left the band in 1993 for a solo career and was replaced by Mary Ramsey.

Buck and the band last performed Nov. 6 at a rally for Hillary Rodham Clinton at Buffalo State College.