

Talent In Action

JOHN DENVER

Municipal Auditorium,
Nashville

Tickets: \$12.50, \$10, \$8.50

Clearly the folks hadn't forgotten Denver in his two-year absence from Music City. His July 12 concert drew an almost full house of enthusiasts. As is his happy custom, Denver used no opening act, electing instead to work the stage for the entire 34-song, two-hour and 15-minute program.

Denver developed a quick camaraderie with the audience, joking and encouraging them to sing along, setting up songs and responding amiably to shouted requests and compliments.

Again, Denver showed he is basically a gospel singer—in the sense that he presents himself as a messenger of transcendent love rather than as the reporter of transitory encounters.

Still, the show was a model of light-heartedness, adorned with such expected Denver drolleries as "Toledo, Ohio," "Thank God, I'm A Country Boy," "Grandma's Featherbed" and the antique rockers, "Johnny B. Goode" and "Memphis."

Among the evening's other standouts were the Stanley Brothers' classic, "How Mountain Girls Can Love," featuring Denver on mandolin, a surprise gift to the crowd of "Tennessee Waltz," a soaring treatment of "Sweet Surrender" and the grim warning to a predatory race, "You Say That The Battle Is Over." In one segment, Denver excused his superb nine-member band and did five songs to his own accompaniment. He closed with "Calypso" and encored with "This Old Guitar."

As long as the concert was, the crowd clamored for more Denver, finding in him, perhaps, a person whose gospel of love is more thoroughgoing than Bob Dylan's funky fundamentalism and whose wide-ranging affection for the American land and people reduces Charlie Daniels' current posturing to its rightful place as a chart oddity.

EDWARD MORRIS

RUFUS & CHAKA BROTHERS JOHNSON

Greek Theatre, Los Angeles

Tickets: \$12.50, \$10.50, \$7.50

It was a night for crossover funk here July 10 when these veteran acts opened a two-night stand. Rufus took a gutsy, harder-edged r&b funk approach; Brothers Johnson leaned to a lighter, slicker pop funk style.

Actually, the show was something of a tribute to multi-crossover specialist Quincy Jones, who produced Rufus' most recent "Masterjam" LP and all four A&M albums by the Brothers.

Both acts had right, razor-sharp instrumental support, though Rufus boasted a more riveting vocal and visual focus in the volcanic Chaka Khan. The 27-year-old singer possesses an earthy, gospel-like wail and a frisky, feisty stage presence. She also projects a more assertively sexual aura than most female singers, whether kicking up her leg or crouching down on the stage.

Both shows had pacing problems, though both came alive by set's end. The Brothers' 60-minute opening turn started slowly and seemed tamed and constrained. But it hit its stride on the next-to-closing "Get The Funk Out Ma

Face," which features a beefy bass line by Louis Johnson.

On that 1976 hit, all of the members of the six-man backup band except drummer Ricky Lawson left the stage, making way for a show-stopping drums/bass duel. The number led into the exhilarating "Stomp," one of the year's finest hit singles.

Rufus, similarly, earned only polite applause with its early hits, ranging from the gritty "Tell Me Something Good" to the seductive "Sweet Thing." But it generated a frenzied response from the near-capacity crowd on the set-capping "Once You Get Started" and "Do You Love What You Feel."

One small disappointment: the group's 70-minute set omitted Chaka Khan's solo hits like the striking "I'm Every Woman." PAUL GREIN

CRUSADERS

RANDY CRAWFORD

Amphitheatre, Universal City, Calif.

Tickets: \$12.50, \$11.50, \$10.50

For this homecoming concert—their next to last date on a seven-week U.S. tour—the venerable Crusaders pulled out all stops.

Stix Hooper, Joe Sample and Wilton Felder were joined by, among others, jazz all-stars Airtio Moreira (percussion) and Alphonzo Johnson (bass). Their sound was further augmented by a 32-piece orchestra led by comanager Sid Garris.

The 12-song, 105-minute show was a joy to listen to throughout as the dapper, white-tail clad Crusaders performed their unique blend of jazz, rock and blues with enthusiasm and precision. Felder's excellent saxwork—such as his

mellifluous cadenzas—was especially noteworthy.

Songs played included: "Rainbow Seeker," "Snowflake," "It Happens Every Day" and "Carmel." The sound was rich and compelling, and infectiously danceable. The only disappointing selection was the new number, "Rhapsody And Blues," which came off as melodically uninteresting and overly pretentious in its arrangement.

Moreira was spectacular on his exotic percussive instruments and he garnered strong audience response. The Moreira-Hooper rhythmic interchanges were especially dynamic and well received. Another highlight was the rendition of "Jazzman Breeze," on which Bobby Hutcherson (vibes), Osamu Kitajima (koto) and Kazu Matsui (shakuhachi) came onstage for the breathtakingly beautiful Japanese-flavored piece.

Garris' orchestra was well-tempered and provided a pleasant undercurrent during the evening, but seemed rather unnecessary on the whole: the spare, economic sound of the Crusaders does not lend itself to the symphonic scale.

Garris' orchestra was well-suited, however, to the rousing performance of "Street Life," for which opening act Randy Crawford joined the band and got the audience out of its seats with her exciting vocals. "Street Life" showed off Crawford's powerful voice to even greater advantage than had her successful eight-song, one-hour set earlier in the evening. In both cases, Crawford amply proved her abilities as a singer and as an entertainer.

Though no encore was offered at the end of the show by the Crusaders, they gave their fans a fulfilling evening, with songs guaranteed to warm the coldest soul. CHRIS MCGOWAN

Billy Joel Shows Draw Big

NEW YORK—Billy Joel did not restructure the second half of his current tour because he "didn't want to chance his huge reputation with poorly attended shows," as was suggested in Billboard's July 12 issue, his organization says.

"Our experience on this tour shows that Billy's concert audience is expanding despite the state of the economy," says Dennis Arfa, president of Home Run Agency, which books Joel.

"Promoters of the dates from which we withdrew were confident Joel would sell 20% to 40% more tickets than in previous years. Wolf & Rissmiller requested multiple dates with Billy in Los Angeles, Bill Graham wanted multiple dates in Oakland and Concerts West and Albatross Productions wanted multiple dates in the Northwest.

"Billy's sellouts on this tour show that he's risen to the point where his success on the road no longer depends on a strong economy.

"For example, his last Chicago date in 1978 sold 12,000 tickets. His July 16 and 18 dates this year sold 36,000 tickets—and went clean in one day. What's more, in November, when the economy was also poor,

Joel went out without a record and easily sold out multiple dates in the largest indoor halls on a series of West Coast, Midwest, Eastern and Southern cities," says Arfa.

Signings

Reunited trio **Main Ingredient** returns to RCA Records. The new LP is due in August. . . . **O.C. Smith** to Family Records. . . . Warner Bros. artist **Hilly Michaels** to Chappell Music. . . . **Carl Carlton** to 20th Century-Fox Records. . . . Ovation inks rock quintet **Citizen** as part of its expanding pop roster. . . . Rock group **Soldier** to Sanford Ross Management, not Mike Jacobs, as previously reported. . . . **August Darnell** and **Kid Creole & the Coconuts** to Tommy Mottola's Champion Entertainment for management. . . . Songwriter **Bob Morrison** to Robert Light for representation in the fields of motion pictures and tv. . . . RCA artist **Razzy Bailey** to Top Billing for booking and publicity. . . . Ovation's **Joe Sun** re-signs with BMI. . . . **Dick Shuey** to Little Richie Johnson Agency for promotion.

Talent Talk

Paul McCartney will be seen wandering through dancing waters leading into an Arctic landscape where he'll meet an eight-foot polar bear in a videotape of his latest single. "Waterfalls." Shot by Keefco for MPL Communications, the sequence was filmed in an unused aircraft hangar on the Brooklyns Estate in Weybridge, formerly used for the construction of FC 10 airplanes. The Arctic wasteland was constructed from some 3½ tons of polystyrene. . . . John Lennon, meanwhile, and wife Yoko have sold a Holstein Freisian cow for a world record of \$265,000 in an auction. The Lennons own 250 of the animals.

Linda Ronstadt's first tv special

will be on Home Box Office at the end of August. . . . A performance by the rockabilly band **Rockats** at Hurray's in New York recently turned into a jam session joined by **Iggy Pop**, **Johnny Thunders** and **Phil Lynott**. . . . "The Arrival of B.B. King," an authorized biography by Charles Sawyer, is expected in the bookstores this fall. . . . **Sha Na Na's Jocko Marcellino** is back with the **Movers** for dates in the New York area. . . . American bass player **Busta "Cherry" Jones**, who played with **Chris Spedding** in the English blues band the **Sharks** in the early '70s, is back as simply **Busta Jones**, leading the **Escalators**.

ROMAN KOZAK & SHAWN HANLEY

Billboard® Top Boxoffice™

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Rank	ARTIST—Promoter, Facility, Dates DENOTES SELLOUT PERFORMANCES	Total Ticket Sales	Ticket Price Scale	Gross Receipts
Stadiums & Festivals (More Than 20,000)				
1	BOB SEGER/REO/PPOINTBLANK/THE ROCKETS—Sunshine Promotions, Kentucky Fair Stadium, Louisville, Ky., July 13	45,142	\$12.00-\$14.00	\$555,240*
2	HEART/J. GEILS BANO/BLACKFOOT/TRIUMPH/JOE PERRY PROJECT—Belkin Productions/Chicago Productions, Toledo Speedway, Toledo, Oh., July 13	32,424	\$13.00-\$15.00	\$410,932
3	THE WHO/WILLIE NILE—Entam Presents/Sunshine Promotions, Rupp Arena, Lexington, Ky., July 11	20,713	\$8.00-\$12.00	\$226,936*
Arenas (6,000 To 20,000)				
1	QUEEN/THE BLASTERS—Avalon Attractions, The Forum, Inglewood, Ca., July 8-12 (4)	60,800	\$8.75-\$10.75	\$594,970*
2	TOM PETTY/TOMMY TUTONE—Electric Factory Concerts, The Spectrum, Philadelphia, Pa., July 8&9 (2)	25,566	\$8.50-\$9.50	\$234,522
3	BILLY JOEL—Cross Country Concerts, Hartford Civic Center, Hartford, Conn., July 11	15,900	\$9.50-\$11.50	\$176,824
4	THE WHO/WILLIE NILE—Entam Presents/Beach Club, The Greensboro Colis., Greensboro, N.C., July 1	13,761	\$10.00-\$12.00	\$159,526*
5	THE WHO/WILLIE NILE—Mid-South Concerts, Mid-South Colis., Memphis, Tenn., July 10	11,999	\$7.50-\$12.50	\$130,975*
6	TED NUGENT/SCORPIONS/DEF LEPPARD—Electric Factory Concerts, The Spectrum, Philadelphia, Pa., July 14	16,523	\$6.50-\$8.50	\$129,094*
7	ISLEY BROTHERS/GAP BAND/FATBACK/S.O.S. BAND—Marquee Productions/Taurus Productions, Cardina Colis., Columbia, S.C., July 12	12,328	\$8.50-\$9.50	\$115,719*
8	ISLEY BROTHERS/CAMEO/GAP BAND/S.O.S. BAND—Marquee Productions/Beach Club Charlotte Colis., Charlotte, N.C., July 11	12,900	\$8.00-\$9.00	\$111,761*
9	ZZ TOP/HUMBLE PIE—DiCesare-Angler Productions, Allentown Fair Grandstand, Allentown, Pa., July 13	11,541	\$9.00-\$10.00	\$105,000*
10	DOOBIE BROTHERS/THE DIRT BAND—Contemporary Productions, The Checker Dome, St. Louis, Mo., July 10	11,061	\$8.50-\$9.50	\$100,900
11	DOOBIE BROTHERS/DIXIE DREGS—Schon Productions, St. Paul Arena, St. Paul, Minn., July 8	10,642	\$8.50-\$9.50	\$100,040
12	ALICE COOPER/SHEIK/POT LIQUOR—Super Star Productions, Riverside Centreplex, Baton Rouge, La., July 13	11,520	\$8.00-\$9.00	\$97,650
13	DOOBIE BROTHERS/DIXIE DREGGS—Amusement Conspiracy, S Season Center, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, July 9	9,066	\$10.00	\$90,660*
14	FOGHAT/PAT TRAVERS BAND—Brass Ring Productions/Celebrate Productions, Cobo Arena, Detroit, Mi., July 8	8,883	\$9.00-\$10.00	\$87,819
15	JOURNEY—Feyline Presentations, Red Rock Amphitheatre, Denver, Colo., July 7	8,500	\$8.50-\$9.50	\$79,409*
16	QUEEN/THE BLASTERS—Feyline Presentations, Compton Terrace, Tempe, Ariz., July 7	8,410	\$9.00-\$10.00	\$77,351
17	CRYSTAL GAYLE/MICKEY GILLEY—Feyline Presentations, Red Rock Amphitheatre, Denver, Colo., July 11	7,014	\$9.50-\$10.50	\$73,897
Auditoriums (Under 6,000)				
1	ALLMAN BROTHERS/HENRY PAUL BAND—Ron Delsener, The Palladium, New York City, N.Y., July 7, 8 and 9	10,000	\$10.00-\$12.00	\$117,000*
2	ISLEY BROTHERS/THE GAP BAND/THE S.O.S. BAND—Marquee Productions/Taurus Productions, Greenville Memorial Colis., Greenville, S.C., July 13	6,800	\$8.50	\$67,000
3	FOGHAT/PAT TRAVERS BAND—Brass Ring Productions, Flint Sports Arena, Flint, Mich., July 10	4,264	\$9.50	\$40,908
4	CHUCK MANGIONE—Avalon Attractions/Mark Berman, San Diego Amphitheatre, San Diego, Ca., July 10	4,194	\$9.75-\$12.75	\$39,844
5	ZZ TOP/HUMBLE PIE—Dick Clark Presentations, Dick Clark Westchester Theatre, Tarrytown, N.Y., July 12	2,975	\$10.50-\$12.50	\$33,595
6	JEFFERSON STARSHIP/THE FOOLS—Frank T. Russo, Inc., Cumberland County Civic Center, Portland, Maine, July 12	3,846	\$8.00-\$9.00	\$31,832
7	JUDAS PRIEST/PLAYMATE—Ron Delsener, The Palladium, New York City, N.Y., July 12	3,385	\$8.50-\$9.50	\$30,500*
8	CHUCK MANGIONE—Avalon Attractions, Santa Barbara County Bowl, Santa Barbara, Ca., July 13	3,097	\$7.75-\$9.75	\$29,265
9	JOAN ARMATRADING—Perryscope Concert Productions, Queen Elizabeth, Vancouver, B.C., Can., July 7	2,821	\$9.50-\$10.50	\$28,948*
10	JOAN ARMATRADING—Perryscope Concert Productions, Jubilee Aud., Calgary Alberta, Can., July 9	2,622	\$8.00-\$10.00	\$25,765*
11	ROSSINGTON COLLINS BAND/RONIN—Feyline Presents, Rainbow Music Hall, Denver, Colo., July 11	2,900	\$8.50-\$9.50	\$25,532*
12	PETER GABRIEL/RANDOM HOLD—Monarch Entertainment, Asbury Park Convention Hall, Asbury, N.J., July 9	3,145	\$7.50-\$8.50	\$25,323
13	CHEAP TRICK/THE APES—Selron Productions, Riverside Arena, Austin, Minn., July 9	3,422	\$7.00-\$8.00	\$24,628
14	JOAN ARMATRADING—Perryscope Concert Productions, Jubilee Auditorium, Edminton, Can., July 9	2,502	\$9.00-\$10.00	\$24,503*
15	ROSSINGTON COLLINS BAND/RONIN—John Bauer, The Paramount Theatre, Seattle, Wa., July 14	2,510	\$9.00-\$10.00	\$23,629
16	EDDIE MONEY/CORNELL HARD BAND—Bill Graham, Redding Civic, Redding, Ca., July 11	1,990	\$8.00-\$9.00	\$16,871



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