

TALENT IN ACTION

(Continued from preceding page)

evening had very few dead spots, and even those—which occurred during a couple of Carter's blander, less distinctive numbers—were never less than pleasant.

For the most part, things were exhilarating. Carter played with a vitality that belied his age (he turns 80 later this year), and the other soloists—notably tenor saxophonist/flutist Lew Tabackin, trumpeter John Eckert, and the orchestra's two pianists, Dick Katz and musical director John Lewis—were almost as impressive.

The highlight of the evening was the premiere of a suite, "Central City Sketches," which Carter described, almost apologetically, as "a work in progress." It *did* have an unfinished sound to it, and it didn't so much build to a big finish as stop, but parts of it seemed, at first listening, as good as anything else Carter has written.

A studio album documenting much of the music played at the concert will be released later this year on the MusicMasters label.

PETER KEEPNEWS

JIMMY BUFFETT & THE CORAL REEFER BAND

State Theatre, Sydney, Australia
Tickets: \$23

FIVE SONGS into this concert, Buffett scratched his head, summoned up as much sincerity as his casual personality allows, and asked the obviously devoted audience: "Why the hell has it taken me so long to get here?"

A reasonable query considering the generous affection being offered him by followers who had waited 15 years for the son of a sailor to wend his way Down Under. Except for Crosby, Stills & Nash, he is the only music figure of his era who had resisted the temptation to discover the lower continent.

Buffett's current formation of the Coral Reefer Band includes drummer Russ Kunkel, former Little Feat percussionist Sam Clayton, pianist Mike Utley, former Eagles sideman Vincent Melamed, and Neil Young bassist Tim Drummond.

At times their relative lack of experience as a unit became apparent, though the audience appeared to care as much about this minor shortcoming as the reappearance of the signature riff of "Changes In Latitudes, Changes In Attitudes" in a half-dozen other songs.

The qualities that rendered Buf-

fett's show so entertaining had much to do with his personality, which struck a responsive chord with natives of a nation obsessed with outdoor leisure.

The patter and the flow built a rare mood, with swift audience recognition for the likes of "Banana Republics," "Cheeseburger In Paradise," "A Pirate Looks At Forty," "If The Phone Doesn't Ring, It's Me," "Havana Daydreamin'," Van Morrison's "Brown-Eyed Girl," and the unquestionable favorite of the night, "Why Don't We Get Drunk And Screw?"

Much is made of Buffett's lack of airplay. Given the familiarity with his vast body of work exhibited by this long-neglected Sydney audience, it doesn't seem to have done him any harm at all. GLENN A. BAKER

YELLOWJACKETS

The Blue Note, New York
Tickets: \$15

AT THIS RECENT show—one of five consecutive dates at the Blue Note—the Yellowjackets rewarded an enthusiastic crowd with 70 minutes of bright, energetic, and downright friendly fusion.

The quartet opened confidently with "Out Of Town," a selection from its new MCA album, "Four Corners," due in May. That the band has "swingability" is probably news to some, but this composition's barreling bass line should convince even nonbelievers. Also new and impressive was "Postcards," making its debut with a host of rhythmic ploys. If this live performance was any indication, the new album comes equipped with two built-in crowd pleasers.

Of course, Yellowjackets dipped into their catalog. "Imperial Strut" and "One Family" stood out; the former boasted a neatly crafted arrangement and Russell Ferrante's keyboards. The latter had a moving lyricism enhanced by the warm bass embers of Jimmy Haslip (who also serves as the band's wry and laid-back spokesman). New member William Kennedy also deserves mention for his self-assured drumming, which brims with versatility.

"Revelation" was the inevitable choice for an encore, and despite the absence of the studio version's vocal group, this gospel rocker lost none of its power. With upper-register testifying, alto saxophonist Marc Russo fervently filled the void.

BOB RIEDINGER



BOXSCORE TOP CONCERT GROSSES

ARTIST(S)	Venue	Date(s)	Gross Ticket Price(s)	Attendance Capacity	Promoter
BILLY JOEL	The Omni Atlanta, Ga.	March 20	\$531,143 \$17.50	30,351 sellout	Concerts Promotions
BON JOVI CINDERELLA	Rupp Arena, Lexington Center, Lexington, Ky.	March 21	\$334,245 \$15	22,283 sellout	Sunshine Promotions
BON JOVI CINDERELLA	Cincinnati Gardens Cincinnati, Ohio	March 19-20	\$300,510 \$15	20,410 sellout	Electric Factory Concerts
ALICE COOPER MEGADETH TESLA	Long Beach Arena, Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center Long Beach, Calif.	March 21	\$211,736 \$16.50/\$15	13,761 sellout	Pacificconcerts
HUEY LEWIS & THE NEWS THE ROBERT CRAY BAND	Mid-South Coliseum Memphis, Tenn.	March 18	\$184,096 \$16	11,506 sellout	Mid-South Concerts
BILLY JOEL	Carolina Coliseum Univ. of South Carolina Columbia, S.C.	March 16	\$182,424 \$17.50	11,056 sellout	Cellar Door Prods.
HUEY LEWIS & THE NEWS THE ROBERT CRAY BAND	Cajundome Lafayette, La.	March 20	\$178,432 \$16	11,152 sellout	Beaver Prods.
BILLY JOEL	Hampton Coliseum Hampton, Va.	March 19	\$173,075 \$17.50	9,890 10,449	Cellar Door Prods.
BILL COSBY	Expo Center, Dane County Expo Center Madison, Wis.	March 22	\$172,457 \$18.50	9,322 10,175	Artists Consultants
IRON MAIDEN WAYSTED	Joe Louis Arena Detroit, Mich.	March 18	\$168,864 \$16	10,554 13,670	Brass Ring Prods.
BILLY JOEL	Charles M. Murphy Athletic Center Middle Tennessee State Univ. Murfreesboro, Tenn.	March 15	\$166,065 \$17.50	9,547 11,000	Sound Seventy Prods.
PEARL BAILEY ANTHONY NEWLY	Fox Theatre Atlanta, Ga.	March 10-15	\$163,426 \$20.50/\$17.50/ \$14.50/\$10.50	14,392 37,424	in-house
HUEY LEWIS & THE NEWS THE ROBERT CRAY BAND	Hirsch Memorial Coliseum Shreveport, La.	March 21	\$160,000 \$16	10,000 sellout	Beaver Prods.
THE GRACELAND TOUR: PAUL SIMON MIRIAM MAKEBA HUGH MASAKELA LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO	Chicago Civic Opera House Chicago, Ill.	March 13-14	\$159,175 \$35/\$25/\$20/\$15	7,089 sellout	Jam Prods. Ltd.
RATT POISON	Capital Centre Landover, Md.	March 12	\$157,759 \$15.50	10,579 18,123	Cellar Door Prods.
GEORGE STRAIT KATHY MATTEA	Tingley Coliseum, New Mexico State Fair Albuquerque, N.M.	March 16	\$154,830 \$15	10,660 sellout	ACTS (American Collegiate Talent Search)
HUEY LEWIS & THE NEWS THE ROBERT CRAY BAND	Barton Coliseum, Arkansas State Fairgrounds Little Rock, Ark.	March 17	\$150,000 \$15	10,000 sellout	Mid-South Concerts
BEASTIE BOYS MURPHY'S LAW FISHBONE	Fox Theatre Detroit, Mich.	March 20-21	\$142,264 \$16.50	8,624 sellout	Brass Ring Prods.
DAVID COPPERFIELD	San Diego Civic Center San Diego, Calif.	March 19-20	\$136,126 \$18	8,949 10,400	The Space Agency
HANK WILLIAMS JR. & THE BAMA BAND STEVE WARINER	Charleston Civic Center Charleston, W. Va.	March 14	\$134,473 \$14.50	9,747 13,202	Future Entertainment Belkin Promotions
THE PRETENDERS IGGY POP	Maple Leaf Gardens Toronto, Ont. Canada	March 19	\$129,813 (\$180,440 Canadian) \$20	9,022 10,000	Concert Prods. International
GEORGE STRAIT KATHY MATTEA	Taylor County Coliseum, Expo Center of Taylor County Abilene, Texas	March 14	\$123,200 \$15	8,506 sellout	Varnell Enterprises
REO SPEEDWAGON THE GEORGIA SATELLITES	Wings Stadium Kalamazoo, Mich.	March 21	\$116,700 \$16	7,987 sellout	Brass Ring Prods. Sunshine Promotions
GEORGE STRAIT KATHY MATTEA	Pan American Center New Mexico State Univ. Las Cruces, N.M.	March 15	\$113,500 \$15	8,101 sellout	Varnell Enterprises
GEORGE STAIT KATHY MATTEA	Coliseum Stephen F. Austin Univ. Nacogdoches, Texas	March 13	\$108,000 \$15	7,550 sellout	Varnell Enterprises
RATT POISON	Providence Civic Center Providence, R.I.	March 17	\$103,400 \$14.50/\$13.50	7,131 10,400	Frank J. Russo
CONWAY TWITTY RANDY TRAVIS	Franklin County Veterans Memorial Auditorium & Exhibit Hall Columbus, Ohio	March 21	\$102,074 \$13.50	7,888 sellout	Jayson Promotions
FREDDIE JACKSON RAY, GOODMAN & BROWN NAJEE	Civic Theatre, San Diego Convention & Performing Arts Center San Diego, Calif.	March 22	\$96,618 \$17.50	5,984 sellout	Lewis Grey Attractions Concert Entertainment PACE Concerts
REO SPEEDWAGON THE GEORGIA SATELLITES	Wendler Arena, Saginaw Civic Center Saginaw, Mich.	March 23	\$95,712 \$16	5,982 7,169	Brass Ring Prods.
CHICAGO	Greensboro Coliseum Complex Greensboro, N.C.	March 22	\$93,300 \$15	6,717 9,069	Kaleidoscope Prods.
CHICAGO	Ramsey Regional Activity Center Western Carolina Univ. Cullowhee, N.C.	March 20	\$92,145 \$15	6,384 8,442	Kaleidoscope Prods.
THE PRETENDERS IGGY POP	Providence Civic Center Providence, R.I.	March 14	\$78,155 \$14.50	5,390 7,200	Frank J. Russo
DAVID COPPERFIELD	Symphony Hall, Phoenix Civic Plaza Convention Center Phoenix, Ariz.	March 17	\$77,043 \$19.50	4,410 4,622	PACE Theatrical Group
IRON MAIDEN WAYSTED	Wendler Arena, Saginaw Civic Center Saginaw, Mich.	March 17	\$73,290 \$15	4,886 5,300	Cellar Door Prods.
HANK WILLIAMS JR. & THE BAMA BAND BUTCH BAKER	Dayton Hara Arena & Expo Center Dayton, Ohio	March 13	\$73,170 \$13.50	5,742 sellout	Full House Entertainment
CONWAY TWITTY RANDY TRAVIS	Dayton Hara Arena & Exposition Center Dayton, Ohio	March 20	\$70,767 \$13.50	5,242 7,095	Jayson Promotions

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