

Thursday, July 12, 1979

(F1D)

Music goes outdoors for summertime fun

It's a summer concert. You wear whatever you want, lay back and watch the stars — on stage or in the sky.

From the bandshell on Belle Isle to Shain Park in Birmingham, the summer season continues with outdoor musical treats.

The panorama of outdoor music basically comes in three forms:

There are the freebies in the park, usually sponsored by the local communities. There are the Meadow Brooks and Pine Knobs, where you pay for a pavilion seat, or even a patch of grass.

There are the hotel gigs, usually held around the pool, which might take on the air of a singles bar.

THE FREEBIES include groups like the Detroit Concert Band, which bills itself as "America's flagship professional concert band" and plays classics, pops, show tunes and marches. The band plays for free at Hart Plaza and the State Fairgrounds.

The suburban series, such as those in Birmingham and Southfield, include a variety of groups, ranging from community bands and vocal groups to professional musicians.

Typically, a couple hundred people will show up for one of these, many with lawn chairs or blankets and many with pop or lemonade.

At Meadow Brook, there are a couple thousand or so in the audience, some with wine and candles for an elegant picnic before the concert.

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra is in residence there for the summer, playing classics and pops. Jazz and popular artists also appear.

At Pine Knob, the pop and rock groups attract crowds that back up traffic for miles, with some fans drinking beer out of pop bottles.

But enough of details. It's summer and time to be outdoors. Just remember to call ahead for reservations or tickets.



Taylor's concert classy

By ERIC MOBEY

James Taylor opened the first of a four-night stand at Pine Knob on Sunday with a touch of class.

After a brief opening set by jazz guitarist Larry Coryell, Taylor performed for two spirited sets at the outdoor music theater in Clarkston. He took the stage in the usual low-key Taylor style, walking slowly to center stage, bowing shyly and smiling at the crowd for the sold-out concert.

He opened with the familiar acoustic sound of "I Feel Fine," followed by "Riding on a Railroad" and a new song entitled "Nowhere." The sound of Taylor's distinctive guitar and keyboardist Don Grönlund's piano created the softest sounds of the first set.

Taylor is often labeled "soft rock" or "folk rock," but when joined by his

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touring band of noted sidemen, J. T.'s music is gutsy rock and roll.

THE COLLECTIVE experience of Taylor's current back-up band reads like the who's who of rock music. His band members have backed Jackson Browne, Carole King, Crosby & Nash, Linda Ronstadt and Harry Chapin, to name a few.

The band consists of Danny "Kootch" Kortchmar on electric guitar, Leland Sklar on bass, Russ Kunkle on drums, Don Grönlund on keyboards and Waddy Wachtel on electric guitar, and two back-up singers.

All these musicians, with the exception of Wachtel, have played with Taylor for many years off and on, and their experience is obvious.

When the group joined Taylor for the fourth song, "In My Mind I'm Going to Carolina," the performance took on a new dimension. Taylor followed quickly with the classic remake of "Handyman."

Taylor also spliced in several songs from his new album "Flag." "Brother Truckee," a timely tune about independent truckers, captured Taylor at his best low-down funky-blues-style vocal.

FOR THE SECOND set, Taylor got rid of his white shirt and string tie and got down to his BVD T-shirt. He opened with a version of "Steamroller" that got into down-and-out-dirty blues. Saxophonist David Sanborn joined in laying down a solo that sparked Taylor into a series of add-on lyrics that he deliberately stuttered out.

The set also included the softer standards such as "Don't Let Me Be Lonely Tonight," "Long Ago and Far Away" and "Sweet Baby James."

One of the best songs of the concert was a song written by Danny Kortchmar entitled "Honey, Don't Leave Me." The band let out all the steps on this rocker. Kootch and J.T. were doing sort of a bunny hop while "Waddy" clowned, Sanborn waited and Sklar and Kunkle held the whole thing together.

Many laid-back James Taylor fans may not have been ready for such a demonstrative display of tight rock and roll but the band and J. T. seemed to be having a heck of a good time.

The performance was brilliantly timed. New material was sprinkled in the right places, as were the standards. Taylor was friendly and almost

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David Angell fiddles away his summers.

Young violinist plays music to eat dinner by

By JULIE BROWN

The next time you choose to dine at the Magic Pan in Troy or the Machus Red Fox in Bloomfield Township, don't be surprised if you are serenaded by a young violinist.

David Angell of Birmingham, a music student at Indiana University in Bloomington, has spent the past three summers playing at the two restaurants. He plays at the Magic Pan Monday-Wednesday at 6:30-9:30 p.m. and at the Machus Red Fox 7:30-10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

"At the Red Fox, I play from table to table," Angell said. "I play requests, and can suggest something for them."

"At the Magic Pan, I play from room to room. If I can see there's a consensus of young people, I won't play 'Smoke Gets in Your Eyes.' I try to give each room a mixed repertoire."

ANCELL BEGAN taking violin lessons when he was 5. "It's a losing game if you don't start early," he said. "I began when I was 5."

He believes music is like a language. He starts students at an early age, and they learn by imitating, by playing by ear. I was off it (the Suzuki method) in three years. You need other skills, such as reading."

The 1977 Seasholm High School graduate spent four summers, from 1973-1976, at the Interlochen Music Camp and won a scholarship in his final year there. He played the part of the fiddler in Seasholm's production of "Fiddler on the Roof."

"I told them I'm not actor, I just play the violin," he said.

Readers may remember Angell as the musician who lost his violin near Cranbrook School last summer. He had placed the instrument on the roof of his

car and then drove off, forgetting about it. It was recovered about a month later, although a Union Lake woman had donated a violin after reading newspaper stories. He has sold the recovered violin but still has the donated one.

Angell studies with Prof. Albert Laxan at Indiana, and with Jack Boesen during the summer. Boesen is a former Detroit Symphony Orchestra member who recently retired, Angell said.

"I've thought about studying other instruments, but I haven't even mastered one," he said. "You can transfer your knowledge of string techniques from one instrument to another, but each has its own problems."

Angell is now enrolled in a double major program at Indiana, but hasn't decided what he wants to get his degree in.

"IT WOULD BE better to take a year off after finishing my undergrad work," he said. "I'll get a master's in something. I conducted in Interlochen, and have been told that I have talent in that area."

Angell has also taught violin, although he has only one student now. "It's good experience, but I don't like to take too many students," he said.

Angell estimated that he plays eight hours a day, including class time and practices, during the school year.

"I like to stay in practice as much as possible," he said. "For me, playing violin is just sitting in a room and practicing. When you see a musician on stage, that's only a small part of his career. Most of it is in the practice room."

ANGELL DOES NOT come from an exceptionally musical family. "My fa-

ther played clarinet when he was young, but he was never virtuoso," he said. "My 14-year-old sister plays oboe and piano. She got the headmaster's scholarship to Kingswood, and is going to Interlochen this summer."

Angell intends to continue his performances at the two restaurants for the rest of his college career. "It helps me to perform in front of people, and I also have time to practice during the day," he said.

He isn't too sure about what direction his music will take after graduation. "I'm sure I'll start out in a symphony job. I would like to eventually be in a major string quartet."

"Right now, I'm just keeping my back to the wind, and my nose to the grindstone. I'll keep on showing up until they tell me not to."