

Chicago delights crowd

By NICK CHARLES

One of the biggest summer draws, Chicago pleased crowds at Pine Knob Music Theatre in Clarkston.

The band opened the show with a new song called "The American Dream" from its latest album, "Chicago 14" (The Thumbprint Album).

Bassist Peter Cetera sang the new song, which pianist and fellow front man Robert Lamm followed with an old song "Beginnings." Trombonist James Pankow and trumpeter Lee Loughnane traded solos on the now-classic song.

Lamm introduced a song from the band's 12th album, "Hot Streets," which Chicago just discovered was fun to play live. The song is "No Tell Lover."

The band followed this with another song from "Hot Streets" called "Little Miss Lovin'."

Cetera, who cut off most of his blond locks, led into a crowd favorite, "Just You and Me," which featured Walter Parazaider on soprano saxophone. The song was written by Pankow as a wedding present to his wife.

WHEN ORIGINAL guitarist Terry Kath's replacement Donny Dacus left the band, he was replaced by an old friend of the band, Marty Grebb, on rhythm guitar and new lead guitarist Chris Pinnick from Los Angeles.

New songs such as "I'd Rather be Rich" and "Overnight Cafe" were performed as well as "Alive Again" from "Hot Streets," which was Chicago's first album with a title.

Lamm captured an exact emotion in his song "Heruns" from the "Chicago 13," which he shared with the crowd:

"We've been through it all before
But you brought it up once more
I let you down, you can't forget it
You forgave me
You won't let it fade away
Put it all behind us
Will I always have to pay
Something I'm not proud of?
Is there nothing I can say?"

review

This song led into a conga drum solo by Laudir de Oliveira, who toured with Sergio Mendez and Brazil 66 for 4 1/2 years before joining Chicago. Danny Seraphine accompanied him on drums.

After a 15-minute intermission, the band came back with "Gone Long Gone," a Cetera composition from the 12th album. Peter took up an acoustic guitar as Pinnick took over his bass for the song that sold more than any other Chicago single, "If You Leave Me Now."

LAMM, WHO CHANGED from his classy sports jacket, tie and rose in lapel to a "Savage Space 1880" T-shirt, played a short classical piano solo as a prelude to "Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is?"

Other Chicago favorites, such as "Saturday in the Park" from the band's fifth album, "25 or 6 to 4" from the second album and "Peggy" Stronger Everyday" from the sixth album, were performed.

Peter, sometimes known as "the voice of Chicago," sang one of the new album's strongest songs, "Hold On," which Lamm followed with the album's single "Thunder and Lightning."

The million seller "I'm a Man" from the first album, "CTA" (Chicago Transit Authority) was saved for the first encore, along with the soulful "Give Me Some Lovin'" by the Spencer Davis Group.

Thirty-one-year old Lamm sneaked in a Beatles line from "I Am the Walrus" in one of the new songs since the beat was similar. It seemed he couldn't resist the temptation and "Got to Get You Into My Life" was performed for the second encore.

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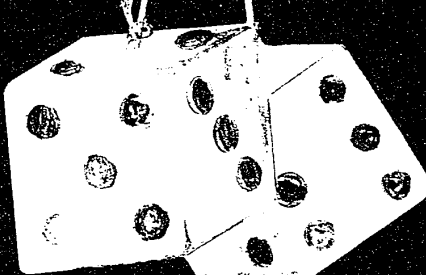
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