

Thursday, August 5, 1982 O&E

# Rock won't be escalated at Meadow Brook scene

By Nick Charles  
special writer

FOR MANY AREA residents, summertime means relaxing under the stars at Meadow Brook while enjoying some fine wine and, of course, elegant symphonic music.

This scene will continue in the summers ahead. But on some nights the sounds of violins and tympani will be replaced with electric guitars and drum solos.

Nevertheless, classical music buffs do not have to worry. Rock and roll is not going to take over Meadow Brook.

"We aren't interested at all in some of the really heavy metal rock groups," said Stuart Hyke, managing director of Meadow Brook Music Festival, which is presented at Baldwin Pavilion on the Oakland University campus near Rochester.

"THE FESTIVAL will remain to have a profile like it's had in the last few years. Our principle function is to act as the summer home to the Detroit Symphony. I don't think we'll get any

heavier into contemporary entertainment that we are already."

Meadow Brook, now in its 19th season, has been including popular concerts in the summer schedule since 1970. Before then, the festival was exclusively reserved for symphonic programs.

Last year, Meadow Brook presented shows by Jimmy Buffet, Al Jarreau and the Charlie Daniels Band. Each of these shows is considered contemporary but not rock.

Buffet falls under the category of island rock as he sings about palm trees, boats and coconuts. Jarreau is a jazz vocalist, and Charlie Daniels is considered country-rock.

Although Meadow Brook has hosted contemporary concerts like these previously, it has never staged what can be considered "rock and roll" shows — until now.

"NO, WE ARE NOT trying to become the next Pine Knob," Hyke said, referring to another outdoor music theater which stages several rock concerts each summer near Charleston. "We are just interested in getting new groups of

people to come out (to Meadow Brook)."

One reason for the contemporary concerts is financial. Although Meadow Brook is known for its classical concerts, it actually loses money on them. It stays afloat by holding contemporary shows and patron donations.

"We lose over \$300,000 on the Detroit Symphony concerts," Hyke explained. "Our popular entertainment will generate \$150,000 to cover some of our losses."

Even though the contemporary concerts are financially successful, they tend to bring about other problems not usually associated with classical concerts. One of the most noticeable problems is noise.

It was clear noise was going to be a problem when Meadow Brook presented its first rock concert July 12.

"SOUND LEVELS were much louder than expected," Hyke said. "To the public living around the festival who heard the concert, you have our sincere apologies."

The volume problem was not caused by the headline band, Cheap Trick, but

by the opening act, Saxon.

"The Cheap Trick portion of the show was pretty good. It was still loud, but it was tolerable," he said. "They were considerably more melodic than Saxon."

Cheap Trick and Saxon's show was the loudest one that will take place at Meadow Brook this season. The upcoming contemporary acts are considered mild.

In association with Brass Ring Productions, Meadow Brook will present Elvis Costello and his band The Attractions on Monday. Costello falls under the category of "New Wave."

HE JUST released his seventh album for Columbia records called "Imperial Bedroom." The English singer/guitarist has written songs performed and recorded by other artists, including Linda Ronstadt and Dave Edmunds.

He has been an inspiration to many performers and is known for the songs "Accidents Will Happen," "Green Shirt," and "Girls Talk." Meadow Brook will fall under the charm of Scottish singer Sheena Easton when she appears at the festival Aug.



Elvis Costello and the Attractions will appear Monday at Meadow Brook Music Festival. Special guest will be Talk Talk.

18. Although she's just in her early 20s, Easton is also known for singing the theme song from the last James Bond movie, "For Your Eyes Only."

Other Brass Ring concerts scheduled at Meadow Brook include Utopia on Aug. 19 and the Osmonds (including Donny and Marie) on Sept. 2.

# Doc Severinsen, DSO team for top-notch concert

By Judy Jablonski  
special writer

On the "Tonight" show, his outlandish attire is often the subject of Johnny Carson's ridicule, but his music receives nothing but praise.

So, it was no surprise when Doc Severinsen, garbed in glitter, gave an outstanding performance to a near-sell-out crowd Saturday night at Meadow Brook Music Festival on the Oakland University campus near Rochester.

## review

Severinsen's contemporary jazz sound was enhanced by the sophisticated sound of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, conducted that night by Newton Wayland. The collaboration of Severinsen's brass trumpet solos and the DSO's melodic wonders was a fantastic

explosion of musical fireworks.

In addition to highlighting Severinsen's trumpet talents, the evening served as a showcase for the versatility of the symphony.

THE DSO OPENED the show with the standard "When Johnny Comes Marching Home," burst into a highly polished and patriotic "Variations on America," then played a delightfully bizarre piece from Franz Waxman's "Bride of Frankenstein" score.

In contrast, Severinsen's first num-

ber was a concerto written expressly for him eight years ago.

"This piece shows off with great brilliance Doc's own brilliance," Wayland said as he introduced Severinsen. "He is bold, irreverent, highly disciplined, energetic and creative. He's the best."

Severinsen has been receiving such praises since he was named best trumpeter in the state of Oregon at age 9. Among his mentors in the years that followed were Charlie Barnet, Benny Goodman and Tommy Dorsey.

He then became a member of the NBC staff and occasionally played for Skitch Henderson on Steve Allen's "Tonight."

IT WAS IN 1962, the same year Johnny Carson joined the show, that Severinsen actually became a member of the "Tonight" show staff. Undoubtedly this 20-year association with Carson and company has helped to mold Severinsen into the extraordinary entertainer he is today.

Severinsen knows what the audience likes, and he plays upon that. His flashy clothing, wry wit, expressive eyebrows and occasional bumps and grinds to the beat of the music have become his trademarks.

During the first half of the show, however, Severinsen was somewhat subdued in dress and speech as he poured himself into his music. His sparkle-studded three-piece beige suit, a

(Continued on next page)

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