

MUSIC

Blood, Sweat and Tears at Marshbank

Blood, Sweat & Tears with David Clayton Thomas, 8 p.m. Saturday, July 22, fireworks, 10:15 p.m., Marshbank Park, Hiller Road, north of Commerce Road, West Bloomfield Township. Tickets \$5 per person, children under 5 free. Buy tickets at park gate on day of concert. Park gate opens 4:30 p.m. Lawn seating only, blankets and lawn chairs acceptable. Call (810) 334-5660 for information.

BY MARK E. GALLO
SPECIAL WRITER

West Bloomfield Parks & Recreation Commission has scored a major coup in persuading Blood, Sweat & Tears to perform at the 108-acre Marshbank Park this Saturday as part of the 25th anniversary celebration of the park.

Blood, Sweat & Tears, formed by Blues Project expatriates Al Kooper and Steve Katz, released their critically acclaimed debut, "Child Is Father To The Man," in 1968. Even though Kooper's "I Love You More Than You'll Ever Know" became something of a radio staple, most fans of the band have little, if any, memory of that first effort. Kooper left shortly thereafter to pursue other interests, including a long association with Bob Dylan, and the band went through its first major transitional phase.

For the casual listener, the band's genesis came with the introduction of British-born and Canadian-born vocalist David Clayton-Thomas. With his entrance, and the subsequent release of the band's second album, simply entitled "Blood, Sweat & Tears," the band most often cited for introducing jazz rock, became one of the hottest groups in the world, almost overnight. Three singles, a remake of Motown-signed Brenda Holloway's "You've Made Me So Very Happy," a cover of Laura Nyro's "And

When I Die," and Clayton-Thomas's "Spinning Wheel" — all climbed to the number-two spot; the album was number one in the United States for close to two months (remaining on the charts for nearly two years and ultimately selling a reported 10 million copies worldwide), and went on to win the Grammy award for Album of the Year. Clayton-Thomas was similarly honored with a Male Vocalist of the Year trophy for his superb rendition of jazz legend Billie Holiday's "Good Morning, Heartache," and saw his "Spinning Wheel" voted Song of the Year. BS&T had obviously tapped into an audience hungry for musical diversity.

The current band bio sums up what has always been at the heart of the BS&T appeal: "Conservatory-trained artists who play Mingus and Miles, studied Bartok and Beethoven, but who grew up on Ray Charles, the Beatles and Aretha."

Certainly David Clayton-Thomas's raspy vocals are the center of attraction, but those who share the stage with him aren't there for their pretty faces, either. This is a tight, horn-driven band that has historically delivered the goods better than most. That was true 25 years ago, that was true when I saw them at Meadowbrook in the late '70s or early '80s, and it's a safe assumption that it remains the case in 1995.

An array of amazing players have passed through Blood, Sweat & Tears over the past quarter century, and though the faces have changed, the sharp charts and classy delivery have remained constant. Currently in the rank are Detroit-born saxophonist Tim Rice, an alumni of the University of Michigan and veteran of stints with Maynard Ferguson, Donald Byrd, the Temptations and Steely Dan's Donald Fagen; trumpeters



Celebrate 25: David Clayton-Thomas and Blood, Sweat & Tears will help celebrate West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation's 25th anniversary 8 p.m. Saturday, July 22 at Marshbank Park.

Jerry Sokolow (Dizzy Gillespie, Dr. John and Della Reese) and Steve Gutman (musical director and 10-year BS&T vet who put in time with Tito Puente); trombonist Charley Gordon (Phoebe Snow, Cab Calloway); 20-year veteran BS&T drummer Bobby Economou (Maynard Ferguson, Larry Carlton, Nancy Wilson and Bruce Hornsby); bassist Gary Fouts (Billy Cobham); guitarist Larry DeBari (Michael McDonald, Larry Coryell, David Bromberg); and keyboardist Matt King (Woody Shaw, Joe Cham-

bers and Eddie Daniels).

The cumulative history that this lineup brings to the band further their pedigree as one of the most swinging groups in the history of rock, and continues to keep them in constant demand throughout the world.

If you have a comment or information for Mark Gallo, call (313) 953-2047, mailbox 1898, on a Touch-Tone phone, or write to him care of Let's Go!, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schofield, Livonia, MI 48150.

DSO to perform at Meadow Brook

BY CHRIS MCCOSKY
STAFF WRITER

It's back.

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra is returning to one of its favorite summer venues, the Meadow Brook Music Festival on the campus of Oakland University, for a week-in-residency July 21-23.

"Bringing such a respected and world-renowned symphony as the DSO back to Meadow Brook, its original summer home, can only accustom our schedule," said Tom Wilson, president of Palace Sports and Entertainment, which along with DSO Orchestra Hall and Amertech is presenting the shows. "We are optimistic this arrangement will be well supported by the area concert-goers, so we may continue, and possibly expand, the program in the future."

Which is good news to the thousands who made the DSO at

Meadow Brook an annual summer affair up until 1992 when the DSO's restructured summer schedule excluded Meadow Brook.

DSO music director Neeme Jarvi, whose resume includes more 260 recordings including 15 with the DSO, is planning two blockbuster classical concert programs for Meadow Brook.

Beginning at 8 p.m. Friday, July 21, the Maestro will lead the orchestra in a program of "Beethoven's Big Fives," featuring some of Ludwig Van Beethoven's most important works: "Egmont Overture," "Piano Concerto No. 5 (Emperor)" with guest pianist Stephen Prutman, and the landmark "Symphony No. 5."

At 8 p.m. Saturday, July 22, Jarvi will introduce to the Meadow Brook audience three of Russia's most notorious composers:

Nicolay Rimsky-Korsakov ("Russian Easter," "Capriccio espagnol"), Modest Mussorgsky ("Pictures at an Exhibition") and Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky ("1812 Overture").

"Jarvi and the orchestra are delighted to be returning to Meadow Brook," said Mark Velpe, DSO executive director. "It is a first-class summertime venue for the DSO."

The two classical programs offer a preview to upcoming DSO performances at the Bravo! Colorado Music Festival in Vail, July 26 to Aug. 6.

The Meadow Brook weekend will also feature some classics for kids and close with a some dramatic laser fireworks.

At noon Saturday, DSO Assistant Conductor Lan Shui will conduct the orchestra in the timeless children's classic "Beethoven

Lives Uptairs." This award-winning production combines a spell-binding tale with the sensational music of Beethoven.

Then at 8:30 p.m. Sunday, the DSO will exit with a Laser Light Spectacular featuring the music of John Williams ("Star Wars," "Raiders of the Lost Ark," and "E.T."). Joining Shui and the DSO will be WQRS radio host Paul Russell who will provide narration.

Tickets are on sale at the Orchestra Hall Box Office (313-833-3700), The Palace of Auburn Hills Box Office or at Ticketmaster (810-645-6666). Tickets for the two classical shows are: \$20 Pavilion A, \$15 Pavilion B and \$10 lawn. For "Beethoven Lives Uptairs," \$15 Pavilion A, \$10 Pavilion B, \$5 lawn. For the laser show: \$20 Pavilions, \$12.50 lawn.


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