



At festival

Cleo Laine, British vocalist hailed by many as the world's greatest jazz singer, will be in concert Saturday at the Detroit Plaza Hotel. She is among the jazz greats appearing as part of the Montreux Detroit International Jazz Festival, continuing through Monday in downtown Detroit. More than 700 musicians are performing in 82 concerts during the six-day festival, including 17 ticketed performances in the Book-Cadillac, Detroit Plaza and Pontchartrain Hotels, the Detroit Institute of Arts and Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are available at all CTC outlets and at the Music Hall box office, 350 Madison. Tickets for special performances at the Detroit Institute of Arts can be purchased at the DIA box office, 5200 Woodward. Ticket information is available by phoning the festival hotline at 298-6100. Direct from the recent Montreux, Switzerland, festival, the Swiss group Andreas Voltenweider & Friends, will appear in a free concert at 11:30 a.m. Sunday at Hart Plaza. Voltenweider, who plays harp, guitar, flute, and piano, also will perform with his quartet prior to the Detroit Jams II freewheeling jam session at 8 p.m. Monday in the Music Hall.

Impressions make his act sing

By Ethel Simmons  
staff writer

**E**VER SINCE singer Bob Anderson added vocal impressions to his nightclub act, he's been knocking 'em dead.

A real Las Vegas pro, the personable entertainer who used to live in Rochester will be returning to Detroit to sing in two shows Sunday at the Michigan State Fair.

Performances will be at 3 and 8 p.m. at the grandstand, where he also appeared last year. The open-air pavilion shows are presented free.

By phone from Las Vegas, Anderson said he had just closed in Dallas with dancer Juliet Prouse at the Music Hall and was going into the Frontier Hotel in Vegas.

"She is the most professional lady I've ever worked with," Anderson said of Prouse, "and a nice lady as well."

ANDERSON has been appearing on TV shows, primarily doing his impressions. "I'm trying desperately to work out a record deal," he said.

The 33-year-old singer has a voice that turns a ballad into something special. He picked up his musical knowledge listening to the old masters (Sinatra, Bennett and others).

A record deal at this time is not too promising. "If they're not going to play Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett and Jack Jones, why are they going to play Bob Anderson?" he asked.

But even if he should get a chance to shine with his own vocalizing, the impressions of great singers will always be in his nightclub act.

"In Vegas, they basically book me because of my impressions," Anderson said.

HIS FAMILY, friends and fans back in Detroit may not get to see many of his TV appearances because some of the talk shows he visits aren't shown in the Detroit area.

"I just did my 50th shows at the Riviera with Merv Griffin, and got a plaque," he said. "Nancy Sinatra brought me on the show in 1973."

Other talk-show hosts he has appeared with when their shows are done from Las Vegas include Mike

*'I just did my 50th show at the Riviera with Merv Griffin, and got a plaque.'*

— Bob Anderson  
singer-impressionist

Douglas, at the Desert Inn ("I did four shows this year.") and John Davidson, from the Hilton International Hotel.

"I've been doing a lot of Friars Club roasts," Anderson said. "One was for Dr. Kissinger. It was more of a tribute to him. Kirk Douglas was the emcee. Sinatra and Hope were there. I was on a distinguished dais."

OVER THE last four or five years, the entertainment business has been in a slump, Anderson said. In Vegas, the price of shows has gone so high — now a \$35 cover charge — that showrooms are losing customers.

"Entertainers have just about priced themselves out of the market," he said. "Dolly Parton at the Riviera is getting \$350,000 a week, and so is Kenny Rogers."

For the last 2½ years, Anderson has been living in Las Vegas, where he had a house built. He's having an outdoor pool put in now.

"It's so dry here," he lamented. "We have no water here. There's no green. It's very hard to grow anything."

He hopes to come back to Michigan someday to live. "I miss the fall the most," he said. Anderson plans to build a home on Lake St. Clair eventually.

It's also thinking of getting married soon. "I'm almost married to one lady. We don't have a wedding date yet."

HER NAME is Karen Martin and she is from Detroit, where they used to date in high school. She and her 10-year-old daughter are in Vegas now. "She plays tennis and golf, and she's the housekeeper," Anderson said, describing his future bride.

In October, Detroiters will have another opportunity to see the singer perform when he appears at a new nightclub in Warren.

Anderson's reviews have raved over



Singer Bob Anderson will be doing his vocal impressions at 3 and 8 p.m. Sunday at the Michigan State Fair in Detroit.

his own vocalizing, and his talent in impersonating the famous singers — especially through their voices but also in their mannerisms.

In July, he performed at Sun City in Bophuthatswana, South Africa. "They've got a hotel and casino right in the middle of nowhere," he explained.

"It was very nice, but when you go to the airports, they have the little soldiers with their machine guns."

THE CRITICS there loved Anderson's impressions and total performance. One said, "He is that very rare

force, the complete artist, the consummate entertainer."

Another wrote, "We've seen and heard all of these singers impersonated by other entertainers over the years with varying degrees of skill. But not one of them has captured his subjects so unerringly."

South Africa has only had TV for the last few years, Anderson said, and visitors' performances are being filmed. A show he did will air Monday in South Africa.

His shows in South Africa were given just before Frank Sinatra's recent appearance there.

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