

outdoor concerts

MEADOW BROOK MUSIC FESTIVAL

At Baldwin Pavilion, Oakland University campus near Rochester, Free parking. Ticket information at 377-2010.

Canadian Brass, Detroit Symphony
8 p.m. Friday, July 13
Pavilion \$16, lawn \$10.50

Tom Paxton, with special guest Tom Reah

8 p.m. Saturday, July 14
Pavilion \$16, lawn \$10.50

SUMMER NIGHTS
At Outdoor Courtyard, Troy Hilton, Troy. For more information phone 583-9000.

Hugh Borge and the Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band
8 p.m. Friday, July 13
Cover charge \$5 per person.

Solid Gold Summer Nights, with Teen Angels

7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 14
Cover charge \$2 per person.

PINE KNOB MUSIC THEATRE
At Pine Knob in Clarkston. Season ends late September. Tickets at all Ticket World outlets. Pine Knob Hotel 647-7720.

The Every Brothers
7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 12
Pavilion \$15, lawn \$10
Steve Lawrence, Eydie Gorme
8 p.m. Friday-Sunday, July 13-15

Pavilion \$15, lawn \$10

Johanny Mathis
8 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, July 16-18
Pavilion \$15, lawn \$10

PJAZZ
At Pool Terrace, Hotel Pontchartrain, Detroit. Ticket information at 965-0200, Ext. 3968, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Alexander Zonjic Quintet
8 p.m. Friday, July 13
Reserved \$5, general admission \$5

Stanley Turrentine
8:30 p.m. Monday, July 16
Reserved \$9, general admission \$7

NEW CENTER SWINGS
Free concerts in New Center Park at Second Avenue and W. Grand Boulevard in Detroit. Free parking. In case of rain call 872-0188 for concert location.

Easy Street Swing Sextet
5 p.m. Thursday, July 12



Tom Paxton heads the hit Saturday, July 14, at Meadow Brook.

2 top groups make good times roll

By Ellen Windell
special writer

It was a revival of the good times when the Kingston Trio and the Rovers got together — as they often do around the Fourth of July — on Friday night at Meadow Brook Music Festival.

Featuring the kind of audience participation that makes for a party atmosphere, both the Kingston Trio, which did the warmup, and the Rovers were obvious old favorites of this mostly middle-aged crowd.

The audience jammed into Meadow Brook looked and acted like it remembered the good and bad times of the 1960s. The crowd also knew how to have a good time, singing along with the Kingston Trio, which started its lively set with "I've Been Doing Some Hard Traveling, Lord."

Although the Kingston Trio disbanded around 1968 and only one member of the original group is left (Bob Shane), in the last several years the newly formed trio (with Roger Gambill and George Grove) is back doing concerts and has recently released a new album.

THE GROUP'S new album, "Looking for the Sunshine," has some new songs, but its audience still loves the old standards. "MTA," "Tom Dooley," "Worried Man" and "Scotch and Soda" set the feet to tapping.

In the second half of the program, the Rovers, once known as the Irish Rovers, kept the same kind of rapport with the audience that the Kingston Trio established.

review

These songs also generate the hand-clapping singalong you expect as a reminder of the good times of the early '60s. Back then the original trio almost single-handedly created the folk-singer era and paved the way for the folk-rock of Bob Dylan.

Of course, members of the Kingston Trio don't look anything like the clean-cut striped-shirted college kids they were in the late 1950s when they scored big on the hit parade with their pop-folk songs. Now they look like their audience. A little grayer, a little paunchier — but no less fun loving.

Gambill tells the jokes and plays the guitar while Grove, a shorter and bolder member of the trio, has a beautiful whiskey baritone. His voice was revealed best when he shared personal information about a recent divorce and sang "Sometimes Love is Better When It's Gone."

In the second half of the program, the Rovers, once known as the Irish Rovers, kept the same kind of rapport with the audience that the Kingston Trio established.

THE QUARTET, which came from Northern Ireland but first got together in Canada 20 years ago,

actually learned to charm an audience in pubs along the Canadian and California coast.

The Rovers' pub songs with an Irish flavor travel well from bars to an outdoor concert. The group also has proved it comes across well on television, and an upcoming TV special will show them singing on a pub crawl of the Irish coast.

In concert, the members have a casual and witty ability to mix the warmth of their lively personalities with their Irish melodies to create a party feeling.

This crowd at Meadow Brook came to the concert with the Rovers' tunes long ago firmly tucked in its memory banks. All it took was the Rovers on stage to loosen the audience's vocal cords so those lyrics began tumbling out.

Building its performance with a combination of old favorites like "Molly Malone," "Pretty Peggy-O" and "Black Velvet Band" (first recorded in 1967), along with some newer songs from their latest album, the Rovers climaxed the concert with "The Unicorn Song" and "Wasn't That A Party."

NOT TO BE outdone by the preceding festivities, though, the Meadow Brook people followed the Rovers with a fireworks display and a recording of Kate Smith singing "God Bless America."

If the Kingston Trio and the Rovers didn't take you back a few light years, Kate Smith and the fireworks sure did.

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