

Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



Thursday, July 31, 1986 O&E

(OJSD)



After 25 years, Peter, Paul and Mary are still singing out for social and political causes they've adopted.

Hammering away at social injustice

Two fathers of teenage children and a grandmother take to the Meadow Brook stage this week. But to their fans, the music of Peter, Paul & Mary hasn't aged much since the group began 25 years ago.

They've blended their social and political views with their music, exploring and expounding on such topics as Vietnam, nuclear freeze, world hunger and El Salvador.

The group disbanded in 1970, one year after "Leaving on a Jet Plane" hit the top of the music charts. Eight years later, they reunited to perform at an anti-nuclear rally in California.

Although they don't pack as many concerts into a year as they once did, they appear at about 50 shows a year. Their Detroit-area appearance is at 8 p.m. Friday at Meadow Brook Music Festival, Oakland University, near Rochester.

Years after they'd gotten within sight of the Top 10, Peter, Paul and Mary continue to put out their own records, most recently an album, "Such Is Love." On stage, interspersed between more recent songs, the trio performs the songs for which they're most remembered, among them, "If I Had a Hammer."

"Lemon Tree," "Puff the Magic Dragon" and their rendition of Bob Dylan's "Blowin' in the Wind."

Their trio began with a performance in 1961 at New York's The Bitter End.

Today, each combines involvement in the trio with other pursuits. Tenor vocalist Peter Yarrow is involved in producing records and songwriting. Several years ago he produced an animated television special based on "Puff the Magic Dragon."

Neel Paul Stookey, baritone vocalist lives with his wife and three children on the coast of Maine. He is involved in a Christian rock group, Bodyworks. Two of his five solo albums were nominated for Grammy awards. His first solo effort contained his "Wedding Song."

Tickets to the group's Meadow Brook appearance are \$18 for pavilion seating, \$12 lawn. For more information, call the Meadow Brook box office, 377-2010.

Moving up in the music world

By Kevin Brown
staff writer



Eric White's moved through the ranks from co-leader of the Livonia-Stevenson High School Jazz band to working as a backup musician for the likes of Lou Rawls and Frank Sinatra. He's still pursuing his ultimate career goal, to become a record producer.

He's gone from co-leader of the high school jazz band to budding record producer and backup musician with Frank Sinatra and Lou Rawls — and he's only 25.

Formerly of Livonia, Eric White now lives in the Miami, Fla., area. There, at Criteria Studio, is where White recently got the call to add brass and synthesizer arrangements to an upcoming Julio Iglesias album and where he was recruited to play trombone with both Rawls' and Sinatra's backup bands.

And White has just finished producing saxophonist Ed Calle's first album at Criteria, a pop-jazz effort due out this fall on Epic Records. It's a big first step toward White's goal of moving from sideman to record producer.

After graduating from Livonia-Stevenson High School in 1978, White continued his music education at Central Michigan University. He stayed two years. "It's not a bad school, but it wasn't what I really needed," he said. White continued his education at the University of Miami, Coral Gables, and began working on a master's degree when the lure of more practical training called — live performing in clubs and a chance to tour with Rawls.

"A DEGREE IS worthless. Experience is priceless," said White. That experience included backing Sinatra during Super Bowl festivities in January. "Lou (Rawls) is a great guy. He's real friendly and hangs out with the band," White said. "Sinatra is not accessible to anybody outside his immediate circle. Even musicians who've been with him for years don't talk to him."

White met Calle when both were backing the Miami Sound Machine.

"It's an approach that is tailored to the artist and not vice versa. I'm trying to bring out the strengths of an artist. I'm concerned with balance and contrast."

— Eric White

White said that Calle's first album — and White's first solo production effort — was recorded before Calle had a record contract. "It went as is," White said. "Usually what they say is, 'Now that you've got your demo done, we'll put a budget together and do an album.'" White was encouraged that Epic accepted his production.

"The creative end of it (producing) is much more satisfying than being a sideman," said White. While the Livonia native thinks "it's a bit premature" to discuss his production style, he said, "It's an approach that is tailored to the artist and not vice versa. I'm trying to bring out the strengths of an artist. I'm concerned with balance and contrast."

For example, White says he tried to temper Calle's technical skill by balancing complex passages with lyrical, melodic runs. "So a listener might walk away from an album humming a tune."

Following up on that project, White is working this summer on a keyboard-oriented jazz project he hopes to show to Epic. He's also negotiating with RCA's European division on the possible release of "Under the Streetlights," a song he wrote and produced for singer Diane Williams. White is also working on some commercial jingles, and expects to get more arranging and production work.

upcoming things to do

DOCUMENTARY PREMIERE
Philip Handelman's documentary, "Brothers in Congress" will air at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 31 on CBET-TV Channel 9. The documentary focuses on U.S. Senator Carl Levin and his brother, U.S. Representative Sander Levin.

● **JAZZ FLUTE**
Alexander Zonjic and his band perform at 10 p.m. July 31, Aug. 1-4 at Mama Mia's restaurant, 20210 W. Eight Mile Road, Southfield. For more information call 358-7400.

● **IN THE PARK**
Birmingham continues its series of free programs in Shain Park at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 31 with the Birmingham Community Band directed by Grant Hoemke. Call 644-1807 after 5 p.m. for recorded information.

● **DIXIELAND**
The Connections play Dixieland from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Thursday, July 31 in Prudential's Sun Bowl, in the Prudential Town Center, Southfield. The afternoon is part of a series sponsored by the City of Southfield Parks and Recreation Department, Cultural Arts Division. Bring your own lunch, blanket and lawn chairs. For more information call 354-4717.

● **STEEL BAND**
Hugh Borde's Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band entertains beginning at 6 p.m. Fridays, Aug. 1 and Aug. 8 in the Summer Nights series at the Troy Hilton Inn, 1455 Stephenson

Highway. The band, Just Us, will play intermittently throughout the evening of Aug. 1 and Sierra will fill that spot Aug. 8. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Admission is free until 7:30 p.m., \$5 afterwards. You must be 21 to attend. Call 553-9000 for more information.

● **PJAZZ**
Hotel Pontchartrain presents its 16th year of jazz this summer. Doors open at 5 p.m. to the concert on the outdoor terrace of the hotel at Two Washington Blvd., downtown Detroit. Concerts begin at 7 p.m. On

Friday, Aug. 1 Paquito D'Rivera performs. Tickets are \$14.50, reserved; \$11.50, general. On Friday, Aug. 8 Alexander Zonjic appears. Tickets are \$11.50 reserved; \$8.50 general. Tickets available at Hudson's and Ticketmaster Outlets.

● **ESSER/BREDIUS FAVORITES**
Paul Marcus Esser and Barbara Bredius play a lounge entertainment series at 8:30 p.m., 10:30 p.m. and midnight Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, Aug. 1-Sept. 13 on the

main floor dining room of the Red Cedars restaurant, northwest corner of Telegraph and Nine Mile roads, Southfield. The restaurant is upstairs from the Comedy Crossing. No cover charge. Esser, of Livonia and Bredius, of Troy have won reputations for performing in musical productions. These have included "Personals," "In Celebrations/Kurt Weill and Lotte Lenya" and "Cole Porter at the Book." Selections from their past shows will be featured in the review. Reservations are suggested for

Please turn to Page 6

THURSDAY AT MAMA MIA...

B.B.Q. RIBS

ALL-U-CARE-TO-EAT
\$10.95

Mama Mia
20210 W. 8 Mile • 358-7400

SHOWCASE CINEMAS

* BARGAIN DAY PRICE NOT IN EFFECT FOR "FRIDAY THE 13th VI" & "HEART BURN"

PONTIAC 1-2-3-4-5

2400 SO. ILLICHOUGH RD. • 332-0241

BARGAIN MATINEE DAILY \$2.50

FIRST AFTERNOON SHOW ONLY

CONTINUOUS PERFORMANCES DAILY

LATE SHOWS FRIDAY & SATURDAY

EVERY TUESDAY ALL SHOWS \$2.50

STARTS FRIDAY 10:30 PM

FRIDAY THE 13th VI

HEART BURN

FERRIS BUELLER'S DAY OFF

CALL THEATRE FOR SHOW TIMES

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10

2405 SO. ILLICHOUGH RD. • 334-6777

BARGAIN MATINEE DAILY \$2.50

FIRST AFTERNOON SHOW ONLY

CONTINUOUS PERFORMANCES DAILY

LATE SHOWS FRIDAY & SATURDAY

EVERY TUESDAY ALL SHOWS \$2.50

STARTS FRIDAY 10:30 PM

FRIDAY THE 13th VI

HEART BURN

FERRIS BUELLER'S DAY OFF

CALL THEATRE FOR SHOW TIMES

SUMMIT PLACE CINEMAS

N. TELEGRAPH & LUDINGTON LANE RD.

682-5544

BARGAIN MATINEE DAILY \$2.50

FIRST AFTERNOON SHOW ONLY

CONTINUOUS PERFORMANCES DAILY

LATE SHOWS FRIDAY & SATURDAY

EVERY TUESDAY ALL SHOWS \$2.50

STARTS FRIDAY 10:30 PM

FRIDAY THE 13th VI

HEART BURN

FERRIS BUELLER'S DAY OFF

CALL THEATRE FOR SHOW TIMES

Beautiful beginnings. Happy endings.



Elegant dining
inside the world of
The Somerset Inn

Big Beaver & Coolidge, Troy
Reservations suggested 643-6982



CRUMPETS

New Orleans French Toast and Crumpets
Breast of Capon Francaise and Crumpets
Veal Marsala and Crumpets • New York
Cheese Cake and Crumpets • (or simply
tea and Crumpets) • From 6 AM-11 PM.

Inside the world of
The Somerset Inn

2611 W. Big Beaver Rd.
(east of Coolidge) Troy, Michigan
643-7800