



## Paul Stookey:

### Folk music's message is what's behind the song



Paul Stookey (left), Mary Travers and Peter Yarrow comprise the hit singing trio Peter, Paul and Mary, coming Saturday to the Meadow Brook Music Festival. The group first found fame in the 1960s.

Peter, Paul and Mary will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday at Meadow Brook's Baldwin Pavilion on the Oakland University campus in Rochester Hills. For further information (only lawn tickets are still available), call the box office at 377-2010.

By Victor E. Swanson  
special writer

**P**AUL STOOKEY — he's the Paul in Peter, Paul and Mary — talked about folk music and the trio's upcoming Meadow Brook Music Festival concert. In a recent phone interview from Maine.

"I think the odd thing about folk is that while its style may become popular, I think folk is systematic of a deeper thirst," Stookey said in slow, deliberate style. He was soft-spoken for the entire interview.

"When folk becomes popular, it's because people are looking for integrity and content . . . if it happens to be entertaining, so much the better. But essentially I think they're looking for substance." He talked about "ethics," "absolutes" and "constancy" in folk music. And he mentioned how folk music transcends time because, "It is concerned about those elements of human beings that transcend time."

FOR MORE than a quarter of a century, Stookey and his friends, Peter Yarrow and Mary Travers, have been singing the music that transcends time.

"We know how privileged we (Yarrow, Mary and I) have been to have embarked upon the road of folk music," Stookey said.

"Basically, it demands of the performer an alignment of his commitment . . . if you're going to sing music in this idiom that expresses the human concern and

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compassion, then everything lines up here, your politics line up here, your generosity outside of the strict confines of performing, any altruism in your life."

AS MIGHT be expected, the concert at Meadow Brook will cover human concerns and politics, such as the issue of apartheid in South Africa.

About one-third of the concert will feature new material — or new material for Peter, Paul and Mary — and about half of that new material will be solo material.

The group is going to perform a Bob Dylan song, "I Shall Be Released."

"And we're doing a song that was written in the '40s called — at that time it was called 'Little Mr. Bilbao,'" Stookey said. "There was a senator in the Congress who was quite a bigot . . . We've changed the title to 'Little Mr. Bigot' and are doing a somewhat updated version of it."

MUCH OF THE presentation will consist of old favorites, such as material from the group's most recent album, "No Easy Walk."

"I think the only gap in the program that I'm feeling personally — I'm going to see if I can't come up with something to fill it in myself — is the environment. I don't think it's being represented on the pro-

gram as well as it has in the past." Today, Stookey and the others are always busy.

Travers writes a column for a Pennsylvania newspaper. She often carries around "a little lap-top computer," Stookey said.

Stookey said Yarrow "always the activist" and said that Yarrow is busy with his causes.

"He began or helped to create a folk festival in Texas called the Kerrville Folk Festival, from which he just returned, after celebrating his 50th birthday."

Stookey is busy with several projects, such as a new album called "Bigger Than Live."

"I have a new album coming out this fall with a group called Bodyworks that I travel with . . . We call it 'techno-folk,' because it's essentially high-tech draped around an acoustic guitar," he said.

HIS PET project is a computer bulletin board for people between the ages of 6 and 20. He helps run it and is helping expand it. Currently, people with computers can reach the bulletin board by calling 1-207-374-5161.

As a group, Peter, Paul and Mary will have a Christmas-Hanukkah special on PBS in November. And recently, their first album was remixed and reissued on compact disc.

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### table talk

#### Food Court

The Taste of Michigan Food Court is the newest addition to the Michigan Festival, Michigan's largest performing arts festival. Friday, Aug. 19, to Sunday, Aug. 28, on the Michigan State University campus and in downtown East Lansing. Food may

be purchased and sampled while listening to continuous performances featured on the Taste of Michigan Stage. For more information about the festival, call 351-6820.

#### Hungarian fest

An 11-day Hungarian celebration

featuring authentic Hungarian food and entertainment will be held Thursday-Sunday, Sept. 1-11, in the La Rotisserie Restaurant at the Hyatt Regency Dearborn. Ethnic entrees will include stuffed trout — Silyvasarad-style with Aszu Sauce — and veal medallions — Bakony style. Ferenc Santa's Gypsy Orchestra will perform in the restaurant.

#### Fresh to go

Sweet Lorraine's Cafe in South-

field has inaugurated "fresh foods to go," with a 99-cent delivery charge within the route area. The menu in-

cludes salads, soups, pasta, French baguette sandwiches, baby back ribs, Please turn to Page 6

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SEPTEMBER 6-11

TUES. SUN. EVENINGS AT 8:00 PM      WED. & SAT. MATINEES AT 2:00 PM

1. Tickets at Meadow Brook Music Festival Box Office & all Ticketmaster Outlets or CALL 377-2010

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