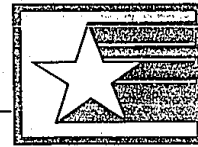


# Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



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## Folk music trio: songs old, new

By C.L. Rugenstein  
Staff writer

IT'S BEEN SAID that the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Fans of the Peter, Paul and Mary trio of folksingers will have a chance to see for themselves how the group has changed yet remained the same since they rode the crest of social protest movements in the halcyon days of the '60s and '70s.

The group is scheduled for a concert at 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 10, at Meadow Brook Music Festival on the Oakland University campus in Rochester Hills.

Some of the songs will be Peter, Paul and Mary classics like "Puff the Magic Dragon." Other songs will be very old, and some, like "With Your Face to the Wind," will be very new.

IN ALL, promises Mary Travers, it will be "two and a half hours of a lot of music that deals with a lot of subjects — some absolutely frivolous, some absolutely serious."

Old fans returning with a second generation, their children, "will find some meaning, even if nothing else but having a moment together as a family," Travers said recently in a phone interview.

Mother of two daughters, one

**Mother of two daughters, one with a daughter of her own, Travers seems pleased with the presence of some very young, new fans in Peter, Paul and Mary audiences.**

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— Mary Travers

with a daughter of her own, Travers seems pleased with the presence of some very young, new fans in Peter, Paul and Mary audiences.

"It's lovely to look out at the audience and see a father hug his little boy during a song from the father's college years," Travers said, "and to see that the son knows the words."

Many of the children learned the trio's songs at camp or nursery school.

"IT'S NOT UNUSUAL to hear a baby cry, or see some little toddler who can't make it past six songs because they fall asleep," she said. But, "That's OK because we sing 'Puff' early."

Though she downplayed the group's influence in earlier civil rights and anti-war movements, ("It's important to know that being a hero is not a permanent job," she observed), their commitment to issues that deal with "the fundamental rights of people" is as strong as ever.

Travers noted that the self-indulgent grab for affluence and influence in the '80s is giving way to an awareness of urban problems, and individual responsibility to do something about it.

"Certainly America spent a lot of time staring at its own navel," she said, but now, "People are saying, 'Gee, we're going to have to address those problems.'"

The plight of the homeless, poverty, an alarming rise in the illiteracy rate, and the recent setback in affirmative action are

some national problems Travers touched on.

"SOME OF OUR new songs address the issues," she said.

One new song, "With Your Face to the Wind," is a solo written and performed by Peter Yarrow. He wrote it for the Wellness Community — "It's like a hospice," Travers said — in California.

"William McBride," by a young Australian, is an anti-war song set in World War I. And "No Easy Walk to Freedom" deals with apartheid.

Travers was arrested for her part in an anti-apartheid demonstration she participated in, with her mother and daughter.

But Travers stressed that activism is not what Peter, Paul and Mary is all about.

"A PETER, PAUL and Mary concert is not about politics. It's about the human condition," she said.

Not all stories, like "The Golden Vanity," about a man who reneged on a promise "have to apply in a literal fashion." They're done in the purest folk tradition — the enjoyment of a good story told in song.

"No Easy Walk to Freedom" was the title of the group's last recorded album, in 1986.

There's no new album in the offing, though Travers said she and partners Yarrow and Noel Paul Stookey (who is originally from Birmingham) have enough material for one.

"We're doing 60 concerts a year together now, and 30 as solo performers," she said, so finding time to do the recording is a problem. "At the end of summer, in September, we sit down and plot out our time for the following year."

Hopefully they'll find time to record a few more songs to be immortalized.



Peter Yarrow (foreground), Mary Travers, and Noel Paul Stookey, who is from Birmingham, are approaching their 30th anniversary in show business as folksingers Peter, Paul and Mary.

### table talk

#### Classic brunch

Classical music will enhance the Sunday brunch at the Ritz-Carlton, Dearborn, beginning Aug. 6. The cold buffet includes smoked seafoods, caviar, pate, terrines, salads, cheeses and fruit. Guests are then served

from a choice of five entrees such as ragoût of sea scallops and shrimp, spring lamb chops or Eggs Benedict. Brunch ends with the dessert buffet featuring tarts, cheesecakes, tortes and fruit. Hours are 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Cost is \$28 per person. Children under 12 are \$15.50 and under 5, free. Reservations are suggested.

#### Etiquette Savvy

"A Weekend of Etiquette Savvy" is being offered for boys and girls age 8-12 on Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 19-20, at the Ritz-Carlton, Dearborn. There will be instruction in table manners and table settings, after-

noon tea etiquette, health and grooming, social correspondence and housekeeping. The children also will work side by side with Pastry Chef Jack Elias. In addition, they will receive instruction in ballroom dancing. Enrollment fee of \$150 per child includes instruction, overnight accommodations and three meals. For more information, call 441-2000.

#### Wine seminar

A two-session wine seminar is scheduled for Sept. 11 and 19 at the Westin Hotel at Renaissance Center in Detroit. The sessions will teach wine enthusiasts how to interpret a restaurant wine list, how to match wine with food and how wine is

made. Eighteen wines will be sampled in the two-hour courses. Sessions will be held 5:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 11, and Tuesday, Sept. 19, at the River Bistro of the hotel's Promenade Level. Tuition is \$100 for both sessions. Registration is open through Thursday, Aug. 31. To register, call Robert Campbell at 568-8448.

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