

**Martineau**

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eye contact with the audience, as if they were ignoring their supporters.

However, the first act did have some interesting moments, especially when the group's voices blended together in enjoyable harmonies.

Rick Garn proved his talents as a flutist with a dynamic solo during *Prends le temps*. His low notes had a rich, brassy quality and the high tones were clear, open and pleasing to the ear. Add to this the crisp articulate tonguing on quick rhythmic passages and Rick is most deserving of a guest performer's stature.

Equally impressive was an original grouping of musical styles that focused on Units' strength: versatility. It began with *California*, whose warm vocals and breezy spirit offered a musical escape from Edmonton's cool weather. Then, *Verr d'amour* lent itself to a jazzy-lilting feel.

Joanne's 'scat' singing was a pleasant contrast to the basic rock tune that followed. Although 22-year-old Martineau is young enough to appreciate the Beatles, it's debatable whether Lennon or McCartney would have enjoyed her interpretation of *Gotta Get You Into My Life*. The lyrics were pounded out and, at one point, the melody sounded as choppy as a chihuahua in a cuisinart (phrase courtesy of Dr. Skeet). In short, Joanne wasn't convincing with her raunchy-rock image. Yet, the Beatles' classic was saved by the many talents of Units; particularly those of Al Davidson (bass), Myron Koch (keyboards) and Michael Harney (drummer).

*Luxury*, by Emmy Lou Harris, completed the first set with a foot-stompin' - yeehah country beat and Rob Williams displayed excellent finger work

during his guitar solo.

Although the first act had some flaws, they were soon forgotten during the second half of the concert. Joanne finally relaxed during *Songbird*. Her voice flowed smoothly to let the music carry her (and the audience) away.

*Standing Alone*, written by Rob Williams, was simply outstanding. The six musicians were united and their sound was rich and balanced. Al's bass and Rob's guitar were perfectly synchronized with Mike's steady, pulsating beat. Rick's saxophone wailed appropriately and heightened Joanne's powerful cry: "Don't ever, ever leave me standing alone."

Ten minutes later, they did it again. *You Don't Know*, an original brother-and-sister Martineau composition brought out the best of Joanne and Units. Splendid harmonies and contrasting

dynamics gave it the fullness lacking from earlier songs. Keyboard King, Myron Koch, played a brilliant solo. But he looked strangely like a mad scientist concocting futuristic sounds with his Korg synthesizer. Yet, these sounds added to the tune's ballad feel and inspirational theme. Also, they helped to support Joanne's expressive lyrics as she sang with much feeling, but never overly exaggerated or sentimental. Every note, every word invited the audience to sympathize with the "hardships of children raising children."

The concert ended with the high-energy soul of *Working Day and Night*, leaving the audience hungry for more. Happily, their appetite can be at least partially satisfied on April 22 at 9 p.m. when the band will be featured on ITV's and CKRA's "Hour Music."

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