

Joni Mitchell, Arlo Guthrie Folk Artists Paired at Festival

By LARRY WEAVER
Telegraph Music Critic

It is from widely separated backgrounds that Joni Mitchell and Arlo Guthrie, Monday night's entertainers at the Mississippi River Festival, derive their widely separated, but somehow similar musical styles.

Joni, her powerful, bell-clear voice tracing faint images in melody, shows in her music and lyrics the philosophers' lament, a sophisticated sort of folk-blues. Joni's approach to the audience is through a high-and-mighty, and therefore mysteriously beautiful linkage of voice and song.

Arlo, who might be characterized as a turned-on Will Rogers, confronts the audience with a more down-to-earth approach to the philosophers' lament; He satirizes situations to the point of making things absurd, requiring a laugh

wherever Joni's message requires sobriety. Also, his singing is a nasal wheeze, sometimes downright irritating, but most entertaining when used as an instrument of mocking hyperbole. Whatever his device, he puts an audience instantly at ease, dispelling whatever stiffness in attitude may exist during the performance. Guthrie's immediate appeal is also rooted in the speaking of, rather than the singing of, passages in selections. The listener has neither melody nor metaphor to interrupt Arlo's spontaneous flow of thought. Says Showbill magazine, "While Guthrie's singing is more than adequate, it is not his forte. His strength is the 'talking-blues', in which he presents a theme, (and) adorns it with his often hilarious narrative..."

Melody and metaphor, however, are Joni Mitchell's forte; her performance could be justified by her songs alone, rather than by her manner of performance of the songs.

By the presentation in one concert of two great talents so widely diversified in technique as Arlo Guthrie and Joni Mitchell, the audience at the Festival was able to identify the common denominator of the music of both. Few other performers could have been as opposite, and at the same time so complementary.

Of the two performers, Arlo Guthrie more or less ran away with the show from the standpoint of humor, dialogue, and just plain fun with the audience, who loved every minute of Arlo's performance. Joni Mitchell, not to be at all slighted, furnished the serious, the beautiful, the rousing selections, in which music is more a vehicle than a backdrop. Such contrast in musical conception provided a most well-rounded evening for everyone at the concert.

Arlo Guthrie was first to take the stage, accompanied by a bassist, a drummer, and a guitarist. Arlo, 22, son of the immortal Woody Guthrie, has had music in his life since he was born. When he was only three years old, he would dance about and play the harmonica for his famous father. Also, the Guthrie family made it a point to always make up their own songs, even while out driving in the car. In later years, Arlo attended a college in Montana for six weeks before deciding that writing and singing songs was what he wanted to do, so he left school.

Robertia Jean Anderson Mitchell, 28, born in Alberta, Canada, enrolled in the Alberta College of Art in Calgary as a prospective commercial artist. Joni, mastering the ukelele and finding she could earn extra money by singing in

coffeehouses, later found that she enjoyed singing even more than painting. After she visited the Mariposa Folk Festival in Ontario, she didn't go back to Alberta, but rather found work in a handful of Toronto coffeehouses. It was in Toronto that she married Chuck Mitchell and moved to Detroit, where she and her husband later separated. From Detroit, Joni went to New York, where she was discovered by Reprise Records.

College Notes

Miss Stephanie Meszaros, assistant librarian at Lindenwood College, St. Charles, was among graduates in the June class at Simmons College, Boston, Mass. Miss Meszaros, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Meszaros of 256 Herbert St., Alton, received the master of science degree in library science.

Engagement Announced



MISS WALTER

Mr. and Mrs. Paul E. Whyte, 3201 College Ave., are announcing the engagement of her daughter, Krystal Ann Walter, to Thomas Frederick Bruns. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick H. Bruns, 781 Park Dr.

Miss Walter, a 1969 graduate of Alton High School, is employed by J. C. Penny Co.

Mr. Bruns is a 1968 graduate of Marquette High School and was employed by Owens-Illinois. He leaves for the Army July 11.

Polly's

By POLLY

Lier You

Look at your fingernails. If they are ragged and down to the quick, you've a clue to the unloveliest gesture. Nail-biting cancels out appeal in an instant.

Inspect your lips. Has your lipstick disappeared? When it needs redoing often, be on your guard against biting and wetting your lips. That mannerism suggests a dangerous amount of fluster.

Correction? Cool it!

Lovelier Hands

Do you have a hand problem? Send today for LOVE-LIER HANDS, a booklet that covers every step in a quest for hand beauty. It tells how to keep the skin and nails groomed; how to overcome weak nails, polish-chips, discolored knuckles, prominent veins, wrinkles; how to use the hands with poised grace. To obtain your copy, write Mary Sue Miller in care of Alton Evening Telegraph, enclosing a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope and 25 cents in coin.

Uihlein And Halpin Vows Said

Miss Katherine Ellen Halpin, daughter of Mrs. George A. Halpin of East St. Louis and the late Mr. Halpin, was married to Ronald Jacob Uihlein June 6 in Queen of Peace Catholic Church, Belleville.

A private reception was held