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Led Zeppelin concerts plan

A MIKE LEDGERWOOD EXCLUSIVE



LED ZEPPELIN are lined-up for a series of British concerts before the end of the year—their first "live" shows here since the July Bath Festival and their countrywide tour in January.

Dates being set aside are late November/early December. The tour is again expected to play major cities and Zeppelin would be the only attraction.

Revealing the news exclusively to Disc this week, manager Peter Grant stressed: "The dates are only an idea at the moment. Nothing definite has been fixed. But Zeppelin do want to do several British concerts again.

Value

"There wouldn't be any other acts on the bill because of the time factor involved. Zeppelin like to give value-for-money."

LZ, holidaying at the moment after their latest US tour, have their third LP, "Led Zeppelin III," released this week to an advance order of 50,000 copies.

Says a spokesman for Atlantic, the group's label: "We confidently expect to sell at least 50,000 copies of the LP every week for the next three months."

"Led Zeppelin III" will sell in a specially-designed double-sleeve for 47s. 6d.

Album review
is on page 7

RNI, RIP!

RADIO NORTH SEA is sunk . . . but not without trace! Because angry fans feel that the pirates really TRIUMPHED — in proving overwhelmingly the need for free radio. For readers' views and historic pirate pictures, see page 9!

Inside Britain's
best-selling
colour pop
weekly

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Joni Mitchell heads for Britain again!

JONI MITCHELL will spend a week in Britain next month. She is set for a concert at London's Royal Festival Hall on Saturday, November 21.

Joni is also expected to make radio and TV appearances during her stay. Her BBC 2 "In Concert" spot recorded on her last trip is screened tomorrow (Friday).

From America Joni told Disc that she had enough new material for another album and would probably start recording on her return to the States after her UK visit.

Her British label (Warner Brothers) expect the LP to be out early in 1971. A new single is likely to be "California," performed at the IOW festival and featured in Friday's "In Concert." No release date is set.

ENGELBERT 'PETITION' CONCERTS

ENGELBERT Humperdinck's long-awaited British concert dates — a Christmas present to his fans following a 12,000 signature petition to the star—have now been set.

Dates are: Cardiff Capitol (December 1), Bournemouth Wintergardens (2), Birmingham Theatre (3), Manchester Odeon (4), Newcastle Odeon (5) and Leicester De Montfort Hall (6).

The concerts follow immediately after Engel's two-week variety season at the "London Palladium" commencing November 16 and, says manager Gordon Mills: "I wish there were time for more but we have only been able to clear just three weeks from Engelbert's American itinerary for these concerts. He returns to America immediately after the last concert."

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Elypennell

A Roy Shipston exclusive

JONI MITCHELL appears at London's Royal Festival Hall next month—her fifth, and last, show this year. Joni has virtually given up appearances—in order to “find out who she is.”

When we phoned her at her Laurel Canyon, California, home, she was packing to fly to Memphis to see a friend and said how much she was looking forward to playing in London. Why so few appearances in a year when her popularity has expanded so much, particularly through “Big Yellow Taxi”?

“This is a year of replenishing for me. All I have done are two festivals and London's Royal Festival Hall in January. I've just got a couple more bookings—Vancouver in mid-October and London next month. I think that's on November 21.

“I haven't done much, apart from writing, because I just needed to stop and take a look at what I was doing. I had to slow down. If you keep going at such a pace all the time you lose the perspective of who you are—it makes you crazy. I just wanted to hang out and be a person for a while.”

Joni is particularly looking forward to the Festival Hall show because she wasn't too happy about her experiences at the loW. “I almost quit a couple of times because of all the commotion. During my first number people were freaking out about 10 rows from the front. In the second there was a lot of confusion as doctors tried to get to them. In the third someone got on stage and started playing bongoes—and then photographers started screaming at me to look their way. I just wanted to sing.

“I got a bit mad and after that I was able to sing all right. But I'm glad I didn't miss the festival. It was a great thing to see and be at.”

Joni, who said there wasn't any truth in rumours that she plans to work with James Taylor in the future, will be recording a new album soon.

“I usually record in November or December.

I have enough material of my own for an LP—some new songs and some written a very, very long time ago. I usually put old and new songs together on albums. The old ones have more of a kind of melodic style than the ones I write now and I think it's good to put songs with different texture together because they make each other stand out more.”



Why Joni is taking a long look at herself

About the success of “Taxi” Joni is a little coy.

“That wasn't really intended to be a single. I am not really a singles artist. I never thought it would do as well as it has. It was a surprise to me. I haven't any plans to release another. “The nicest thing about that for me was that it first started moving in Hawaii, where I wrote it.”

FAMILY always seemed a rather strange group, right from the beginning. They're reticent, unpushy and somehow out on a limb. When other groups intermingle socially, swap musicians, and are seen raving side by side at London clubs, Family are never a part of it. Their slow, steady rise in success has been very much the result of their own hard work.

"We've always seemed so far away from that nucleus you read and hear about—the clique," says singer Roger Chapman, with Love tattooed on one hand, Hate on the other and a blue-bird flying on his wrist. "As people working together in a band, we never really mix with that many people in this business. We've always been pretty much a loner type band."

Roger doesn't regret it, not—he thinks—do the rest of the band. Because it is this total self-sufficiency and empathy within the group that is their musical strength. And Roger is very proud of this fact.

"We go out with each other, which I gather is pretty rare within other bands. We knock about together even when we're not gigging. We haven't exactly discussed it, but I think we all realise it's pretty incredible to get on so well—and for musicians it's really the only way to be able to work."

"Personalities are all different but I can go out with any one of them and enjoy the same things. We've been really close-knit like this since Poli Palmer joined—we just dip each other's musical abilities." Poli joined them 11 months ago, and Will (John Weider) 18 months ago. Both have fitted in perfectly—in fact the music has soared since then.

"Will joined us half-way through the American tour—our first one. He was flown out and we were all a bit apprehensive—him coming from the Animals who had a terrible reputation of being wild. But the whole thing just built up and up until what we've got now which is bound to get better—I don't see how it can go bad on us at all."

Their new album—"Any-way—is an example of how together Family are. Half of it was done at the studio, half live at Croydon's Fairfield Hall—but the emphasis is on a live sound, so they haven't done too much overdubbing and remixing on the studio things.

One number—"Holding The Compass"—they did for the first time onstage at Fairfield.

"We'd tried it before and it really didn't happen, but on the night we said 'right, let's try it, we'll just blow it' and it was incredible. I forgot the words and sang the same verse twice, but I don't think that matters. It's not worth scrubbing it just for that—it's not a downer on me, and the lyrics will be printed on the cover anyway."

The whole album is really nice, very together, full sounding and they're all very pleased with it. The cover, says Roger, is nice too—a Leonardo sketch which someone had to trek to an Italian monastery to photograph.

"Last year they were saying we were so much more together than we were the year before," says Roger when you tell him how much more together the band sounds. "I wouldn't dispute it now because I'm sure we all know we are."

Life's not all frenzy for Family's Roger Chapman. Now he reveals the quiet side of the group who avoid the glitter of the pop scene ...



Together... Family stayed alone

Roger and John Weider have written most of the songs for the album, but say that in future they'd like to have more time for writing and be able to go away somewhere to do it.

"It was funny though, by doing that recording at the Fairfield Hall we got time to get into things—and when we realised we'd done half an album in one evening it left us up in the air, because it seemed like we hadn't done anything."

Besides settling down and getting on so well with each other, the band seems to have also cemented its outlook on its place in the music business.

"We've gone through a lot of mind hassles," says Roger. "We've been over-conscious of the pop thing. I suppose we had a dread of being sucked down into the pop thing at one time—I suppose in that respect it was a nervousness of the whole scene that kept us away from it a bit. If the record company had said to us 'it would be a good thing if you went down to such and such a place tonight, there'll be a lot of people there' we'd think 'well why do you need us then?'"

"But I think since Will and Poli joined we've realised that only people who get hung up by the pop scene are affected by it. We're releasing a single, and it's just as much in our interest to have it played by John Peel as by Top Of The Pops. We're not really writing music for anybody, we're writing it for ourselves, and obviously you hope that people are going to like it and we've not really got any preferences as to who likes our music. It's music and there shouldn't be any preferences in music or you get down to the category scene."

As singer, wild man and general visual attraction

By Caroline Boucher

of Family, Roger insists that his role in the band stretches no further than that—it's a totally socialist band; very equal.

"Everybody has his own contribution; we each give something musically. Another band that I get that feeling about is Ten Years After. In the States they went through a lot of scenes, head scenes, and came out better—like us—saying 'you're a guy, I'm a guy, we're in a band together let's enjoy the music we've got."

"But OK, so I do a lot of the interviews and sing, but I have to ask the rest of the band for advice far more often than they ask me. I really like to look on myself as a musician rather than a singer."

"One of the things I'm proudest of is that people have asked me to do sessions for them. It's not just singing, it's the sound I create which puts me in the musician class. I wish I could play guitar—that's half the scene onstage because I'm in the middle of a solo and I'd really like to get something and go crash crash."

"I play guitar at home but I just haven't the confidence to play onstage. There are even numbers we've rehearsed

where I'm playing bass, but I've always chickened out at the last minute.

"As for my singing and actions—it's not a matter of being unconscious; I'm not zoomed out into space; I just get into the music. I like to feel I'm as a musician, as much as a guitar player, as drummer."



Family's Poli Palmer: blended in

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