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LEISURE

ARTS, DINING OUT, MOVIES, TELEVISION



PETER FRAMPTON



JONI MITCHELL

Frampton, Mitchell concerts highlight long weekend

By JOHN WENDEBORN

of the Oregonian staff

Two major entertainers in pop music, Joni Mitchell and Peter Frampton, will perform in concert in Portland this weekend.

The musical wedding of the late Charles Mingus and the very much alive Joni Mitchell is a marriage of two giants, one a jazz composer who displayed limitless talent, the other a pop composer with poetic sensibilities.

Ms. Mitchell enjoys the success of one whose output of music has continually progressed, from early folk-tinged anthems through mainstream jazz to Mingus, a man whose music may have been jazz but whose music was also the epitome of "black American classical

music."

Though the singer knew of the composer-bassist years before he knew about her, it was Mingus who instigated their collaboration. He'd heard something on an LP of Ms. Mitchell's that sparked some interest and he subsequently met her, about two years ago.

She spent time with Mingus before his death last January (of "Lou Gehrig's disease") listening to his music and his ideas. He died before the project, called "Mingus" on the Asylum album, was completed.

Ms. Mitchell has written lyrics to several Mingus compositions and added tunes of her own composition while turning in an artistic — from a pop as well as jazz view — piece of work. It's

admittedly not "pop" pop and may lose her some fans, but, may get a like number back from the jazz and progressive communities.

Ms. Mitchell has never been one to stand still for long on any musical dais. At least she's been adventurous enough to try something most singer-songwriters would lock themselves in their limousines to get away from.

And, on the other hand, Mingus leaves us with yet more from one of the most unpredictable composers in any kind of music.

Joni Mitchell will perform in concert at 8 p.m. Monday (Labor Day) in Memorial Coliseum, using a band made up mostly of jazz musicians who will

perform old and new, including "Mingus," selections.

The role Peter Frampton has played in music has been less auspicious than those mentioned above but Frampton has certainly not been left out in the cold as far as acceptance is concerned.

One of rock's true "pretty boys," his music has been part of just about every 13-year-old's collection the past few years, especially since the 1976 album, "Frampton Comes Alive," a live concert LP that went bananas in the record shops.

He's lived through the labels of "bubblegummer" and "subteen super-

star" and followed "Alive" with a fairly decent studio LP, "I'm In You," which produced chart success for the title tune.

Frampton paid his dues earlier, though, first in a band called the Herd, then the driving rock band Humble Pie and finally Frampton's Camel, which was something of a musical lowpoint. He was known as a good guitarist, however, and that has been a saving grace while putting his solo vocal career together.

He was starred in the unsuccessful (and mostly hum-drum) movie, "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" and has toured extensively while putting together his new A&M release, "Where I Should Be."

Tragedy nearly snuffed the pop star out a year ago when he suffered multiple fractures, contusions and muscle damage in an automobile accident in the Bahamas. He was hospitalized several weeks, which allowed him to take a close look at his own life.

"What the accident's done for me is to slow me down a bit and also made me treasure life a bit more. It was close for a while (but now) I feel like I've been given a second chance, as though I'm starting again; everything's a challenge," he told an interviewer recently.

Frampton will perform in Portland for the first time in two years, returning to the Paramount Theater for a 7 p.m. show Saturday.